



Department of Justice
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Middle District of Louisiana

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CONVICTION IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA,
ON CHARGES OF MAIL FRAUD AND
ILLEGAL USE OF A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that a federal jury in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, convicted KIMBERLY N. ST. CYR, age 23, a resident of Baton Rouge, yesterday on one count of mail fraud and one count of illegal use of a Social Security number.

The indictment charged that ST. CYR filed false and fraudulent applications with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits using fictitious New Orleans addresses and Social Security numbers that had not been assigned to her by the Social Security Administration.

Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ralph E. Tyson presided over the two-day jury trial. The defendant faces a maximum sentence of up to twenty years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000, or both, for mail fraud, and a maximum sentence of up to five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, for the illegal use of a Social Security number. Judge Tyson will sentence the defendant following the completion of a pre-sentence investigation.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General with assistance from the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General and the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Alan A. Stevens and M. Patricia Jones.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at one hundred forty-five.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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