



Department of Justice

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NEW BRITAIN WOMAN CHARGED WITH HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD

Nora R. Dannehy, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that a federal grand jury sitting in Hartford returned an Indictment today charging CHRISTINE TATE, 30, of Tremont Street, New Britain, with one count of theft of government property and two counts of making false statements pertaining to eligibility for Hurricane Katrina benefits.

The Indictment alleges that, between September 2005 and February 2006, TATE knowingly stole \$3,472 that was provided through expedited assistance programs maintained by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Katrina victims. The Indictment also alleges that TATE knowingly made materially false statements and representations in obtaining expedited assistance from the FEMA programs. Specifically, TATE is alleged to have represented that she was eligible for such benefits, when in reality she knew that she was ineligible for the benefits.

If convicted, TATE faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on the theft of government funds count, and a maximum term of imprisonment of five years and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each of the false statements counts.

Acting U.S. Attorney Dannehy stressed that an indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial at which it is the Government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This case was investigated by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General, and the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development, Office of the Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William A. Collier.

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