

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : Criminal No. 14-
 :
 v. :
 :
 IRVIN COOPER : 18 U.S.C. §§ 641 and 2

INFORMATION

The defendant having waived in open court prosecution by indictment, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey charges:

COUNT 1
[18 U.S.C. § 641 - Theft of Government Funds]

Background

1. At all times relevant to this Information, unless otherwise noted:
 - a. The United States Social Security Administration ("SSA") was an agency of the Executive Branch of the United States. The SSA, among other things, maintained the Retirement Benefits under Title II, of the Social Security Act, Title 42, United States Code, Section 401 et seq., for eligible individuals. When a person who had worked and paid Social Security taxes died, certain members of their family may be eligible for Survivors Benefits which were payable by the SSA. Such benefits were not transferrable and could not be inherited.
 - b. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs ("VA") was an agency of the Executive Branch of the United States. The VA was, among other things, responsible for providing benefits to the Nation's veterans, service members and their families. The benefits offered by the VA included compensation, pension, burial, educational, home loan and health care benefits. One such benefit was the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation ("DIC") program

which paid monthly benefits to eligible survivors of a military service member or veteran who died from: a disease or injury incurred or aggravated while on active duty; an injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty while on inactive duty for training; or a service connected disability. Under certain conditions, DIC payments were available for surviving spouses of eligible veterans.

c. Defendant IRVIN COOPER was a resident of Delran, New Jersey.

d. K.C. was a resident of Willingboro, New Jersey. K.C. was the mother of defendant IRVIN COOPER. In February 1969, K.C. became entitled to Survivor Benefits from the SSA and VA based on her husband's death. Initially, the SSA and VA mailed the survivors Benefits in the form of U.S. Treasury Checks to K.C.'s residence in Delran. Eventually, K.C.'s Survivor Benefits were paid by direct deposit into her account at PNC Bank. K.C. died on or about December 12, 2006. The SSA was not notified of K.C.'s death and continued sending monthly benefit checks and later electronic deposits into K.C.'s bank account at Wells Fargo Bank.

The Charge

2. From in or about December 2009 through in or about April 2014, in Burlington County, the District of New Jersey and elsewhere, defendant

IRVIN COOPER

did knowingly and willfully embezzle, steal, purloin, and convert to his own use and the use of another, money of the United States and the SSA and the VA, that is, approximately \$98,454 in SSA program benefits, namely Survivor's Benefits Payments and VA program benefits, namely, Death and Indemnity Compensation, to which he was not entitled.

The Scheme

3. Defendant IRVIN COOPER did not inform the SSA and the VA that K.C. had died in December of 2006, causing the SSA and VA to issue direct deposits of benefit payments to K.C.'s bank account at PNC Bank until in or about February 2014.

4. At various times after the deposits, defendant IRVIN COOPER accessed K.C.'s bank account and used the money for his own purposes.

5. The total amount of benefits that defendant IRVIN COOPER collected to which he was not entitled was approximately \$98,454.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2.



PAUL J. FISHMAN
United States Attorney

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PAUL J. FISHMAN

U.S. ATTORNEY, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

JASON M. RICHARDSON

Assistant U.S. Attorney

Camden, New Jersey

(856) 757-5026
