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MECHANICSVILLE, VA INDIVIDUAL SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT ON WIRE FRAUD CHARGES

*Defendant Paid \$367,500.00 in Restitution and
was sentenced to five years probation*

LAKE CHARLES, La. - A Mechanicsville, Va. woman was sentenced today to five years probation, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. Polly Ann Foster, 48, was sentenced by U. S. District Judge Patricia Minaldi for wire fraud.

Foster was charged in a Bill of Information in March 2009, and pleaded guilty on June 9, 2009, admitting that she committed wire fraud by fraudulently obtaining money by means of false misrepresentations. Foster, who was employed as a Senior Field Manager for the Richmond, Va. branch office of Amerisafe Risk Services, Inc. (RISK), a direct subsidiary of Amerisafe Interstate Insurance Company (AIIC) who is a specialty provider of worker's compensation insurance, was responsible for managing the worker's compensation claims for the State of Virginia and the District of Columbia, and was authorized to release worker's compensation payments to claimants up to \$50,000.00. AIIC's corporate office is located in DeRidder, La.

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From June 2004 through January 2007, Foster devised a scheme to create fraudulent electronic funds transfers that were directly deposited into her checking and savings accounts by creating an amount of lost wages for a particular claimant. In many cases, Foster would use the names of claimants whose employer's policies were inactive or whose employer had gone out of business. Foster would then contact AIIC's corporate office in DeRidder and request an electronic funds transfer to be generated on behalf of the claimant, causing money to be wired and directly deposited into her personal accounts. During the period of June 2004 through January 2007, Foster had AIIC wire funds into her personal checking and savings accounts totaling \$801,343.36.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case was investigated by the FBI, and was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Kelly P. Uebinger.

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