



The United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
Western District of Louisiana

For Immediate Release
January 5, 2012

www.justice.gov/usao/law

Stephanie A. Finley
United States Attorney
(337) 262-6618
mona.hardwick@usdoj.gov

**MOTHER, SON & DAUGHTER PLEAD GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT FOR
CASHING DECEASED UNCLE'S RETIREMENT & SECURITY INCOME**

Amount of Money Embezzled Totaled: \$47,198.00

Lafayette, La.: United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced the guilty pleas of Alberta Murphy, 59, her son, Lerrick Murphy, 33, and her daughter, Thelma Murphy, 31, all of Church Point, La. The defendants entered guilty pleas yesterday in federal court, Lafayette, La., before U.S. District Judge Richard T. Haik, for theft of government funds.

Alberta Murphy, along with her son and daughter, were charged in a one-count bill of information, for theft of government funds. The defendants cashed Retirement and Security Income checks intended for their deceased uncle, Albert Minick, Jr. Each defendant admitted to forging the signature of Albert Minick, Jr., after his death in October of 2001, and cashing the checks. The total loss to the Social Security Administration was \$47,198.00. Defendant Alberta Murphy cashed \$22,537.00; Lerrick Murphy cashed \$22,478.00; and Thelma Murphy cashed \$2,183.00.

At sentencing, each defendant faces a term of imprisonment up to ten years, a fine of up to \$250,000.00, or both, and a term of supervised release of up to three years. **Sentencing will be scheduled at a later date.**

The case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Brett L. Grayson.

###