

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 25, 2011  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyw)

CONTACT: BARBARA BURNS  
PHONE: (716) 843-5817  
FAX: (716) 551-3051

**WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY**  
**IN CONNECTION WITH ESCAPE OF FEDERAL INMATE**

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Lakesia Binion, 34, of Rochester, NY, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge David G. Larimer, to a felony charge of making material false statements. This charge carries a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer M. Noto, who handled the case, stated that the defendant admitted her involvement in assisting the escape of federal inmate Joseph Mitchell and admitted lying to Deputy United States Marshal Shane K. Marshall about her knowledge of the escape. Mitchell, along with Eddie R. Palmer, broke out of the jail in the evening of March 31, 2011, and were apprehended approximately a week later on April 8, 2011. Mitchell and Palmer were concealed in a camping trailer located on a residential property in Sodus, New York associated with Mathias Smith.

Binion admitted during her plea that she knowingly assisted Mitchell's escape by arranging for the delivery of a bible containing secreted saw blades and a cellular telephone and charger to Mitchell at the Monroe County Jail. Additionally, the defendant admitted that she picked up Mitchell after he escaped and drove him to a location at or near Sodus, New York. Deputy US Marshal Shane Marshall spoke with Binion on April 2, 2011 during the escape investigation and Binion falsely denied having any knowledge of the escape and falsely denied having any contact with Mitchell after their last visit at the Monroe County Jail.

United States Attorney Hochul stated that, "at the time of the initial escape, law enforcement said that any person assisting in this incident would be brought to justice. Today's conviction shows the public the truth of those assertions."

The plea was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Deputies of the United States Marshal's Service, under the direction of Charles Salina and Investigators of the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, under the direction of Sheriff Patrick O'Flynn.