

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 15, 2012
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BUFFALO WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT

BUFFALO, N.Y. - U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Tancy Taylor, 40, of Buffalo, N.Y., pleaded guilty to aggravated identity theft before U.S. District Judge Richard J. Arcara. The charge carries a mandatory minimum sentence of two years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Russell T. Ippolito, Jr., who is handling the case, stated that during the process of renting out her home, located at 460 Monroe Street, Buffalo, N.Y., the defendant obtained identifying information, such as social security numbers, dates of birth and employer information, from prospective tenants. Taylor used that information to open on-line bank accounts at two local banks by stealing their identities and posing on-line as the prospective tenants. More than 100 bank accounts were linked to Taylor and this scheme.

The plea is the result of a investigation by Special Agents of the Secret Service, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Tracy Gast.

Sentencing is scheduled for 6/25/12 at 1:00 p.m. in Buffalo, N.Y. before Judge Arcara.