



# Department of Justice

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01/07/11

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## **RIVERDALE MAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD**

ATLANTA, GA - MELVIN DOUGLAS SKRINE, 55, of Riverdale, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge William S. Duffey on charges of theft of government funds.

United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said, "Stealing Social Security funds is stealing from the elderly, the disabled, and those in the greatest need. This defendant cheated the system by claiming disability benefits to which he was not entitled, and fraudulently provided his own son's Social Security number to his employer in an effort to conceal from the Social Security Administration that he was, in fact, fit enough to be employed and earn income. Now, he will spend time in a federal prison and will be required to pay back the money he fraudulently obtained."

"Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits are a lifeline for many Americans who are unable to work due to a temporary or permanent disability and the Office of the Inspector General, in conjunction with the United States Attorney, will investigate and prosecute individuals who defraud Social Security trust funds," said Guy P. Fallen, Special Agent-in-Charge, Social Security Administration-Office of the Inspector General.

SKRINE was sentenced to serve 6 months in prison to be followed by six months of home confinement, and then 3 years of supervised release. He was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$138,069. SKRINE pleaded guilty to the charge on October 18, 2010.

According to United States Attorney Yates, the charges and other information presented in court: The Social Security Administration received an anonymous complaint that SKRINE was working full-time as a custodian with the Fulton County School System while receiving Disability Insurance Benefits. A subsequent investigation revealed that SKRINE worked at Mary M. Bethune Elementary School in College Park, Georgia from 2003 through 2007. Fulton County School System personnel records revealed that SKRINE applied for the custodian position utilizing his son's Social Security number. SKRINE also falsely informed the Social Security Administration on

September 26, 2008, and November 18, 2008, he was not working as a custodian with the Fulton County School System. SKRINE's misrepresentations and false statements caused the Social Security Administration to erroneously issue \$138,069 in disability payments to him and his dependant beneficiaries.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Loranzo M. Fleming prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is [www.justice.gov/usao/gan](http://www.justice.gov/usao/gan).