

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA**

<b>UNITED STATES OF AMERICA</b>	*	<b>CRIMINAL DOCKET NO. 11-296</b>
v.	*	<b>SECTION: "L"(3)</b>
<b>CLYDE WASHINGTON</b>	*	<b>VIOLATION: 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6(a)(2)</b>
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**FACTUAL BASIS**

If this case had gone to trial, the Government would prove the following beyond a reasonable doubt through competent evidence and tangible exhibits:

Witnesses would testify that Ochsner Medical Center is a non-profit hospital located in the city of New Orleans. The hospital offers primary care, pediatrics, heart and vascular, cancer, digestive, and multi transplant organ services.

Witnesses would also testify that Ochsner Medical Center is a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and that HIPAA protects the individual identifiable health information collected from an individual by a health care provider.

Records and witnesses would prove that **CLYDE WASHINGTON** was employed by Ochsner Medical Center from in or near November 2008 until on or about June 3, 2009. In his capacity as a janitor, he stole printouts containing confidential patient information such as names, social security numbers, dates of birth, phone numbers, home addresses and other personal information that was intended to be shredded.

Witnesses would testify that defendant Sherrie Blair was unemployed and resided in Avondale, Louisiana. Witnesses would also show that Sherrie Blair and **CLYDE WASHINGTON** were in a relationship and have a child together.

Testimony and witnesses would be called to prove that beginning at a time unknown but prior to on or about March 3, 2009, and continuing until on or about December 3, 2009, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, that Sherrie Blair knowingly devised and intended to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud various financial and retail service companies, by opening fraudulent accounts, in the names of former Ochsner Medical Center patients, in order to obtain money and property. Witnesses would testify that these various financial and retail service companies were never repaid for their losses.

A witness would testify that on or about March 3, 2009, **CLYDE WASHINGTON**, in his capacity as janitor, stole patient information sheets from Ochsner Medical Center, in order to obtain information such as social security numbers, dates of birth, and addresses. The witnesses would testify that Clyde Washington then brought the patient information sheets to the residence of his girlfriend, Sherrie Blair. Witnesses would testify that there were approximately 156 victim names along with their identifying information such as social security numbers, dates of birth, and addresses that were in the possession of Sherrie Blair.

Evidence would be admitted to prove that **CLYDE WASHINGTON** knew that the identifying information belonged to actual people and that Sherrie Blair used the information to create online accounts in the names of the Ochsner patients contained on the information sheets.

Records would show that on or about March 13, 2009, **SHERRIE BLAIR** used the internet to obtain a Best Buy credit card by using the social security number, date of birth and name of Ochsner patient J.W. and then used the internet to attempt to obtain credit cards from Kohl's, Target, American Eagle, Old Navy, and Citizen's Bank in the name of that same Ochsner patient, J.W.

A witness would testify that once Sherrie Blair opened the accounts using the internet, she was then able to either order merchandise that would be shipped to her residence via the U.S. mail for her use, **CLYDE WASHINGTON's** use, and/or use the accounts to generate funds that she would use to purchase items for her use, and **CLYDE WASHINGTON's** use.

Records and witnesses would testify that one of the items **CLYDE WASHINGTON** received from Sherrie Blair was a Dell Inspiron 1525 laptop, bearing service tag number 4K4Z1H1.

Bank records and a financial analyst would prove that as a result of the patient information sheets being used, approximately \$82,310.68, of intended loss was caused to various financial and retail service companies.

The above information comes from an investigation conducted by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Secret Service, numerous records subpoenaed into a federal grand jury, and interviews conducted during the investigation.

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CLYDE WASHINGTON  
Defendant

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JON MAESTRI  
Assistant United States Attorney

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VIRGINIA SCHLUETER  
Attorney for Defendant Clyde Washington

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JORDAN GINSBERG  
Assistant United States Attorney

New Orleans, Louisiana  
October 12, 2011