



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Mississippi**

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**MORTON MAN SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY THEFT
AND RELATED KATRINA FRAUD**

Jackson, Miss - Billy C. Williams of Morton, Mississippi was sentenced on October 13, 2009, by U.S. District Judge William H. Barbour, Jr. to serve 27 months in federal prison for aggravated identity theft and for stealing Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Attorney Stan Harris announced today. The term of imprisonment will be followed by three years of supervised release. Williams was also ordered to pay restitution of \$4000 to FEMA.

Williams pled guilty in August, 2009, to filing two fraudulent applications for disaster-related benefits with FEMA, one in his own name and another using the name and social security number of another person. In his application, Williams falsely claimed addresses in Pascagoula, Mississippi and Moss Point, Mississippi, but he was residing in Central Mississippi at the time.

In September, 2005, former Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Lanny A. Breuer, includes members from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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