



*United States Attorney  
District of New Jersey*

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**FORMER NEW JERSEY DYFS EMPLOYEE SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS  
IN PRISON FOR STEALING \$800,00 VIA FALSE TAX RETURNS  
IN THE NAMES OF CLIENTS**

TRENTON, N.J. – A former employee of the State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families, Division of Youth and Family Services (“DYFS”) was sentenced today to 41 months in prison for filing fraudulent tax returns and cashing forged tax refund checks in the names of individuals served by DYFS and other state agencies, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Ugochukwu H. Madubuike, 30, of Orange, N.J., previously pleaded guilty to charges of mail fraud, conspiracy to pass forged United States Treasury checks, and making false claims to the U.S. Treasury Department. He entered his guilty plea in April before United States District Judge Joel A. Pisano, who also imposed the sentence today in Trenton federal court.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

Madubuike and his associate, Onyinye M. Nwokeji, 28, of Irvington, N.J., were arrested in November 2008 by federal agents. The arrests followed a tip from a Bank of America employee regarding the suspicious deposit of a United States Treasury tax refund check issued in the name of someone other than Madubuike into Madubuike’s bank account. The investigation soon uncovered numerous fraudulently-endorsed tax refund checks being deposited into the bank accounts of both Madubuike and Nwokeji.

Madubuike, while working for DYFS as a Family Services Specialist from June 2004 to November 2007, had access to the personal information of those individuals served by DYFS and certain other state agencies. Madubuike admitted using that information without authorization, either from the agencies or the individuals, to prepare and submit fraudulent tax returns to the IRS. The fraudulent returns resulted in over 200 U.S. Treasury tax refund checks totaling over \$800,000 being issued and mailed to various addresses that he controlled. Madubuike then forged the signatures of the payees on those checks in order to deposit them into his and Nwokeji’s accounts.

Nwokeji, who pleaded guilty in February to misprision of a felony, is scheduled to be sentenced on October 21, 2010.

In addition to the prison term, Judge Pisano sentenced Madubuike to two years of supervised release and ordered him to pay a \$7,500 fine. Judge Pisano also ordered Madubuike

to pay restitution in the amount of \$619,909.39

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited special agents of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, Washington Field Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Martin J. Kenney; special agents of the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Victor W. Lessoff in Newark; special agents of the United States Secret Service, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge James Mottola; and postal inspectors of the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of Postal Inspector in Charge David Collins, for their investigation of this case.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric Moran of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

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Defense counsel:

Madubuike: Samuel R. Deluca, Esq., Jersey City, N.J.  
Nwokeji: Olubukola O. Adetula, Esq., Irvington, N.J.