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BLACK RIVER FALLS WOMAN SENTENCED TO 2 MONTHS FOR FALSE STATEMENTS

Madison, Wis. - Stephen P. Sinnott, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Lisa M. Miller, 32, Black River Falls, Wis., was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to two months in prison. Miller pleaded guilty on November 12, 2009, and admitted making false statements to the Social Security Administration in an attempt to obtain disability benefits.

In sentencing Miller, Chief Judge Crabb reviewed Miller's history of fraud related offenses, which include two misdemeanor convictions for check fraud. Judge Crabb also noted that Miller was placed on deferred prosecution for two state fraud felonies in Jackson County on October 28, 2008, two days before Miller began her fraudulent activity in this case. Given this history, Judge Crabb stated it was time for a wake-up call and imposed the custodial sentence.

In October 2008, Miller utilized the Internet Social Security Benefit Application to apply for disability benefits and stated that she suffered from "breast cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, and post-traumatic stress disorder." In early November 2008, she made additional false statements to a Social Security Administration Representative as part of her process to complete her application for disability benefits; during this conversation, she stated that doctors told her that her life expectancy was 8-12 months. Miller followed up by submitting medical records from various doctors purporting to confirm the information she had provided. In fact, these statements were false and the records had been created by Miller. Prior to any benefits being paid to Miller, the attempted fraud was discovered and the criminal investigation followed.

United States Attorney Sinnott stated that today's sentencing was the result of an investigation conducted by the Office of Inspector General, Social Security Administration. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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