



# Department of Justice

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**MAN BEGINS SERVING FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCE  
FOR DEFRAUDING SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Bill M. Meharg, 44, formerly of Schofield, Wis., will begin serving a six-month prison sentence in Florida today for defrauding the Social Security Administration in connection with his disability benefits. Following the prison sentence, Meharg will spend six months in a residential re-entry center as part of his supervised release. He will also have to pay a fine of \$20,000, plus restitution of \$60,065 to the Social Security Administration.

Meharg pleaded guilty to knowingly concealing his work activities from the Social Security Administration on October 6, 2010. He was sentenced by U.S. District Judge William Conley on January 13, 2011.

While claiming to be completely disabled and unable to work because of depression, Meharg incorporated and opened a furniture resale business called Grand Furniture Outlet in Schofield. Once the business opened, Meharg conducted sales and handled management duties. Meharg failed to disclose his work activities on his initial application for disability benefits and failed to report his work to the Social Security Administration while receiving disability benefits. At sentencing, Judge Conley noted that everything about Meharg's conduct showed that he had made a "calculated decision" to defraud the government.

The charges against Meharg were the result of an investigation conducted by the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith P. Duchemin.

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