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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 25, 2010
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LOGAN COUNTY WOMAN PLEADS TO SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

CHARLESTON, W. Va. – Sherry Harrison, 59, of Holden, West Virginia, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston to theft of public money. Harrison, who is scheduled to be sentenced on January 26, 2011, faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. In March of 2003, Harrison applied for social security benefits on behalf of a minor child. Harrison, however, was not entitled to receive benefits because the minor child did not reside with her. Harrison fraudulently received over \$46,000 in social security benefits from June 2003 to November 2009.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S. Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General. Assistant United States Attorney Erik S. Goes is handling the prosecution.

This case is being prosecuted as part of the U.S. Attorney's Initiative to Combat Theft of Government Benefits. The Initiative is designed to protect public funds and to prosecute those who steal benefits from public programs or agencies such as the Railroad Retirement Board, US Veterans Administration, Social Security Administration, and the Department of Labor.

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