

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	CRIMINAL NO. 16-__
v.	:	DATE FILED: _____
MICHELLE FORD	:	VIOLATIONS:
	:	18 U.S.C. § 641 (conversion of government
	:	funds - 1 count)
	:	18 U.S.C. § 664 (theft from an employee
	:	benefit or pension plan)
	:	Notice of Forfeiture

INFORMATION

COUNT ONE

(Conversion of Government Funds)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

At all times material to this information:

1. The Social Security Administration (“SSA”), an agency of the United States, administered certain government benefit programs, including the Retirement and Survivor’s Insurance (“RSI”) benefit program, pursuant to Title 42, United States Code, Sections 401-433.
2. The RSI program was an earned-right program funded through Social Security wage taxes. When an individual worked, that individual paid taxes on his or her wages into the Social Security trust fund. If that individual paid sufficient Social Security taxes to earn sufficient “credits,” as that term was defined for purposes of the Social Security Act, he or she, or eligible dependents, including spouses, were eligible to receive retirement benefits upon reaching a certain age.

3. RSI payments continued until the entitled individual died.

4. The father of defendant MICHELLE FORD, identified in this information as "I.J.," received RSI benefits during his lifetime. The SSA issued I.J.'s RSI benefits via wire deposit into his bank account.

5. I.J. died on or about February 1, 2011. Upon I.J.'s death, no other individual was entitled to receive I.J.'s benefit payments.

6. After I.J.'s death, SSA continued to make his benefit payments via wire deposit into his bank account, which was held jointly by I.J. and defendant MICHELLE FORD. Subsequent to I.J.'s death, defendant FORD accessed the SSA benefit payments intended for her deceased father that were deposited into the jointly-held bank account.

7. SSA terminated I.J.'s RSI benefits payments in or about September 2013.

8. Between on or about March 3, 2011 and continuing through on or about August 2, 2013, defendant MICHELLE FORD improperly received and converted to her own use approximately \$44,186 in SSA benefit payments that were intended for I.J., who was deceased, which defendant FORD knew she was not entitled to receive.

9. Beginning on or about March 3, 2011 and continuing through on or about August 2, 2013, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, the defendant

MICHELLE FORD

knowingly converted to her own use money of the United States in excess of \$1,000, that is, approximately \$44,186 in SSA benefits that were intended for I.J., who was deceased, to which the defendant knew she was not entitled.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641.

COUNT TWO

(Theft from an Employee Benefit or Pension Plan)

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FURTHER CHARGES THAT:

1. The father of defendant MICHELLE FORD, I.J., was entitled to and received pension checks from Employers Local 375 Pension Plan prior to his death. Unaware of I.J.'s death on February 1, 2011, the Employers Local 375 Pension Plan continued to issue hard-copy checks to I.J.

2. Defendant FORD, who was not entitled to receive these pension checks, forged her deceased father's signature onto the checks and deposited them into the bank account she jointly held with her father.

3. Between on or about April 5, 2011 and on or about February 1, 2013, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, the defendant

MICHELLE FORD

did embezzle, steal, and unlawfully and willfully abstract and convert to her own use, in the approximate amount of \$2,800.32, the moneys, funds, securities, premiums, credits, property, and other assets of the Employer Local 375 Pension Plan, an employee pension plan subject to Title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), and of a fund connected with such plan, by depositing pension checks intended for her deceased father, I.J., into her bank account.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 664.

NOTICE OF FORFEITURE

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES THAT:

1. As a result of the violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 641 and 664, set forth in this information, defendant

MICHELLE FORD

shall forfeit to the United States of America:

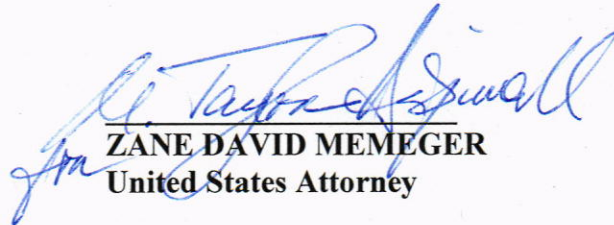
- (a) any property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of such offense; including but not limited to the sum of \$46,986.32.

2. If any of the property subject to forfeiture, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), incorporating Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of the defendant(s) up to the value of the property subject to forfeiture.

All pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), and Title 18,
United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C).



ZANE DAVID MEMEGER
United States Attorney