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## **DAYCARE OWNER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SCHEME TO DEFRAUD**

Shreveport, La.: Earline S. Jackson, 53, of Bastrop, La., was sentenced to five months in federal prison for defrauding the Child Care Assistance Program, United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley announced. Jackson was also sentenced to five months in a halfway house following the completion of her prison sentence and ordered to pay \$83,852.58 in restitution. Today's sentence was imposed by Chief U. S. District Judge Robert G. James.

Jackson is the owner and operator of Tiny Tots Express Day Care Center, Inc., in Bastrop, La. Tiny Tots was the recipient of payments from the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which is a program funded by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and administered by the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Family Support. CCAP provides qualifying parents with financial assistance in the form of payments for child care services.

Between 2006 and 2009, Jackson fraudulently inflated Tiny Tot's provider invoices in order to over-represent the number of CCAP eligible children in attendance at Tiny Tots, and consequently, the payment amount due for child care. As a result of Jackson's false claims, the overpayments to Tiny Tots and loss to the government was in excess of \$83,852.58.

"The U. S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Inspector General, has established a valuable partnership with the Louisiana Department of Social Services' Fraud & Recovery Section and will continue to coordinate enforcement efforts to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in federally funded grant programs," says Mike Fields, Special Agent in Charge, Dallas Regional Office.

This case was investigated by Special Agent Jeff Hannah, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services and Investigators Kathy Long and Stacey Johnson, Louisiana Office of Family Support. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robin S. McCoy.

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