



U.S. Department of Justice

**Stephen J. Murphy
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Eastern District of Michigan**

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For Immediate Release:

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February 6, 2008

EVENT: Sentenced

Defendant: Sandra Fujimoto Collins

BIRMINGHAM WOMAN SENTENCED IN HOAX THREAT

A Birmingham woman was sentenced today to two years' probation and more than \$100,000 in fines and restitution for sending an anthrax hoax threat to a government office in Oregon, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Sandra Fujimoto Collins, 59, was sentenced by Judge Marianne O. Battani in U.S. District Court in Detroit. Judge Battani departed upward from the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines to impose a fine of \$75,000, and ordered \$34,660 in restitution.

Collins pleaded guilty in September to mailing a note to the tax assessor in Multnomah County, Oregon, stating that the note was covered with anthrax. The offense occurred in November 2005, shutting down the Multnomah County Building and requiring the affected employees to be quarantined for six hours. During the hearing, Collins and her attorney stated that she sent the letter in frustration over a dispute about property she owns in Oregon.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "A false threat carries the same disruptive effect to government functioning as a real threat, and although there may be no harm to persons, the fear of harm created by such threats is very real indeed. Such threats also undermine our ability to protect our citizens, by diverting resources better spent on real

dangers to the community.”

The case was investigated by special agents of the FBI in Portland, Oregon. The offense took place in the District of Oregon, however, the case was transferred to the Eastern District of Michigan at the request of the defendant .