



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes  
Southern District of Alabama

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## **DEFENDANT FOUND GUILTY OF FEDERAL HOUSING THEFT**

MOBILE, AL – On Wednesday afternoon in federal court, a Greenville, AL resident, Stephanie Fields, was convicted of one count of theft of government money by receiving federal housing subsidies she was not entitled to, United States Attorney Deborah J. Rhodes announced today. This makes the second defendant this month to have been convicted by a federal jury for this crime.

The defendant was one of ten individuals who were originally indicted in November 2007 as part of a crackdown on federal housing fraud. The crackdown followed a year-long, joint investigation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General and various local housing authorities.

In general, tenants qualify for monthly rent subsidies – where most or all of the monthly rent is paid through federal grants – by filing annual declarations of their income and intermediate declarations when they have an increase in income. The trial evidence in this case revealed that Fields paid no rent for sixteen months by purposefully failing to disclose her job as a bank teller. The resulting theft of rent subsidies was approximately \$5,000,000.

“Every time an individual submits fraudulent forms to receive federal housing subsidies which they are not entitled to, scarce resources are kept from those who actually qualify for assistance and are otherwise denied housing,” said U.S. Attorney Rhodes.

“The Justice Department is committed to working with the local housing authorities and HUD to ensure that this practice stops, and that restitution is made.”

Fields will remain out on bond until she is sentenced on June 9, 2007. Fields faces up to 10 years imprisonment for this conviction.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Adam W. Overstreet.

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