



Department of Justice

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TWO WOMEN SENTENCED FOR HURRICANE KATRINA-RELATED FRAUD

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - United States Attorney Dunn Lampton announced today that Stephanie Fontan and Glenda Spangler of Morton, Mississippi, were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Tom S. Lee.

Stephanie Fontan was sentenced to serve eight months in prison and to pay restitution to FEMA in the amount of \$6,000. Glenda Spangler was ordered to pay \$4,358 in restitution to FEMA. In addition, they were each ordered to conduct 40 hours of community service.

Fontan and Spangler had previously pled guilty to charges that they filed an application with FEMA for disaster assistance in which they represented that Spangler's primary residence was in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and that her personal property located therein had sustained damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina. After an investigation by the United States Department of Homeland Security, it was determined that both representations in the claim to FEMA were false.

In September, 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division - includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force was formed. Recognizing the significance of this event, over twenty federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have come together to jointly pursue and prosecute individuals who file false and fraudulent claims. The joint task force has also been working with county and local law enforcement in this effort.

The Katrina Fraud Task Force members responsible for this joint investigation were the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Defense Criminal Investigative Service, and the United States Army Criminal Investigation Division.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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