



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**MIDLAND MAN SENTENCED FOR HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that Charles Gasper, of Midland, Texas, was sentenced this morning to time served – 5 months incarceration– for fraud relating to hurricane Katrina emergency assistance. In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered Gasper to pay \$360 restitution and be placed under supervised release for a period of three years.

On February 15, 2006, Gasper pleaded guilty to one count of false representation of Social Security Number. Gasper admitted that on September 29, 2005, he intentionally used a false Social Security Number to obtain \$360 from the Red Cross even though he was not eligible for Hurricane Katrina related emergency assistance.

“We continue to be amazed at the appalling behavior of those who are attempting to steal disaster relief money designated for victims of Hurricane Katrina,” stated U. S. Attorney Johnny Sutton. “The U.S. Attorney's office will work vigorously to hold such people accountable for their crimes.”

This case was investigated by the Social Security Administration - Office of Inspector General together with the Midland Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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 the United States Attorneys, among others.

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