



U.S. Department of Justice

**Terrence Berg
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Michigan**

***Suite 2001
211 West Fort Street
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3277***

For Immediate Release:

Contact: Gina Balaya (313) 226-9758

Oct 31, 2008

EVENT: Guilty

Defendant: Kirtis Thomas, III

**PSYCHOLOGIST FOUND GUILTY OF FALSELY BILLING
THE FEDERAL OFFICE OF WORKER'S COMPENSATION PROGRAMS**

Psychologist Kirtis Thomas III, 59, of Southfield, was found guilty today of Conspiracy to Commit Mail Fraud and Theft of Public Money, Mail Fraud and Theft of Public Money by a federal jury in Detroit, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

The jury deliberated for about two hours before returning the verdict, concluding a two-day trial before United States District Judge Marianne O. Battani.

The evidence presented during the trial showed that from November 1996 through on or about February 16, 2006, the defendant billed the Office of Worker's Compensation Programs [OWCP] for almost weekly psychotherapy sessions for a disabled postal employee, even though those sessions never took place. As a result, the defendant received almost weekly \$135 payments in the mail from OWCP totaling approximately \$58,000. During this time

period, defendant Thomas also sent in false medical updates to OWCP.

Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg said, "The submission of phony bills to the federal government is a fraud on the U.S taxpayer, and one that we take very seriously. "

Both charges are felonies and carry a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Sentencing of Thomas is scheduled for March 19, 2009.

The case was investigated by agents of the United States Postal Inspection Service, the United States Postal Service, Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Frances Lee Carlson.