



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CARETAKERS FOR ELDERLY SENTENCED FOR IDENTITY THEFT**

**GREENBELT**, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announces that today U.S. District Court Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. sentenced Geraldine Wooten, age 68, of Forestville, Maryland to 41 months imprisonment followed by three years of supervised release in connection with her guilty plea to conspiracy in a scheme to defraud elderly individuals Wooten worked for as well as various financial institutions. Judge Williams also ordered her to make restitution to two elderly victims in the amount of \$150,021.56 for the fraudulent conduct. Her husband, Sylvester Butler, age 61, of Arlington, Virginia, was sentenced to 18 months of imprisonment followed by three years supervised release for his role in the conspiracy, and ordered to make restitution to one victim in the amount of \$85,794.24.

The indictment was the result of an investigation by the United States Postal Service which began after the Postal Service learned that Ms. Wooten, who had been providing care for a 96 year-old woman, had used the victim's credit history, name and social security number to open numerous credit card accounts and to write fraudulent bank checks on other accounts. During the investigation, it was discovered that, prior to working for the 96 year-old victim, Ms. Wooten had

worked as a caregiver for an Alzheimer's patient and had used the patient's personal information to purchase a house in Georgia and open other accounts.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Donna C. Sanger and Steven Dunne.