



Department of Justice

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Southern District of Texas

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BAYTOWN RESIDENT CONVICTED OF DEFRAUDING FEMA

(HOUSTON, TX) - Daniel Darnell Kendrick, 26, of Liberty County, TX had pleaded guilty to making a false claim to obtain emergency government assistance following Hurricane Rita, United States Attorney Don DeGabrielle announced today.

Kendrick pleaded guilty to the charge before United States District Judge David Hittner, admitting that he made the false claim for hurricane disaster assistance listing 570 Campus in Beaumont, TX as his residence, and received and cashed a \$2,000 check from FEMA in early October 2005. During the proceeding, it was revealed that the true resident of 570 Campus, Beaumont, Texas, who had also made a claim for hurricane assistance, was initially denied because Kendrick had already made a claim for relief as the person residing at the Campus address. Special Agents with the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General began an investigation that ultimately led to the indictment and arrest of Kendrick in November 2006. The agents determined that Kendrick had, in fact, resided at an apartment complex in Baytown, TX before, during and after Hurricane Rita and neither he, nor the apartment complex in Baytown sustained any damage from the hurricane.

A false claim conviction carries a statutory punishment range of up to 5 years imprisonment, without parole, and a fine of up to \$250,000, upon conviction. Kendrick is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge Hittner on April 25, 2007.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Texas is a member of the Department of Justice's Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, created by Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales to deter, detect and prosecute unscrupulous individuals who try to take advantage of the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita disasters. Headed by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher, the Task Force is comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement investigating agencies and the United States Attorney's Offices in the Gulf Coast region and nationwide.

This case was investigated by the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security, and was prosecuted Assistant United States Attorney James R. Buchanan.

Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the

inspector general at dhsoighotline@dhs.gov <<mailto:dhsoighotline@dhs.gov>> or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to:

Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC. 20528
Attn: Office of Inspector General, Hotline

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