



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Northern District of Alabama

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## IMPRISONMENT GIVEN IN FEMA FRAUD CASE

BIRMINGHAM, AL - GLADYS MAE WHITT was sentenced to 19 months imprisonment today in U.S. District Court for defrauding the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Indicted in March 2006, WHITT pled guilty to the FEMA fraud charges in April 2006.

“Individuals who use fraud and deceit to obtain federal funds should understand the consequence,” stated U.S. Attorney Alice H. Martin. “Whitt will serve nineteen months in prison for defrauding the U.S. Government.”

In response to Hurricane Katrina, FEMA made available to eligible households \$2,000 in expedited disaster assistance to be followed by additional funds if needed. The expedited disaster assistance was intended to help Katrina evacuees with immediate food, shelter and clothing needs. To be eligible for FEMA assistance based on housing needs, the damaged home in the disaster area was required to be where the applicant usually lived and where the applicant was residing at the time of the disaster.

WHITT, 44, of Birmingham, posed as a Hurricane Katrina evacuee, stole another woman’s identity and forged that woman’s name to obtain \$2,000 in disaster relief funds. She was charged federally with mail fraud, theft of government property, and uttering a forged U.S. Treasury check.

Special Agents of the Office of the Inspector General, the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United States Secret Service investigated these matters with the assistance of the Birmingham Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Tamarra Matthews Johnson prosecuted this case on behalf of the U.S. Government.

“Members of the public are urged to report fraudulent activity relating to Hurricane Relief to law enforcement,” adds U.S. Attorney Alice H. Martin.

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