



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas  
Middle District of Louisiana

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CONTACT: DAVID R. DUGAS  
(225) 389-0443  
FAX: (225) 389-0561

## **ANOTHER PLEADS GUILTY IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, TO DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGE**

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that another Louisiana resident pled guilty today in federal court to a charge of fraud related to a hurricane disaster relief program.

ANGELICA M. WILLIAMS, age 27, of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, pled guilty today before U.S. District Court Judge John V. Parker to a bill of information charging her with aiding and abetting making a false statement in connection with the filing of a fraudulent application for disaster relief benefits. After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided assistance to victims of the hurricanes, in part, through grants to homeowners to fund the repair and restoration of storm damaged homes. In Louisiana, grants under this program were called Road Home Grants. The bill charged that on or about September 19, 2007, WILLIAMS applied for a Road Home Grant, claiming ownership of a storm damaged mobile home. According to the bill, WILLIAMS caused the signature of another to be forged on a false bill of sale and receipts, fraudulently representing that she was the prior owner of the mobile home. The bill charged that WILLIAMS submitted the fraudulent documents to HUD and FEMA in support of her application, resulting in a loss of approximately \$28,966.60. The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General. As a result of her guilty plea, WILLIAMS faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

The number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds stands at one hundred sixty-five.

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 the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. 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 Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at [HKFTF@leo.gov](mailto:HKFTF@leo.gov) or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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