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Lincoln Man Pleads Guilty to Federal Drug Charges and Social Security Fraud

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Donald Russell**, 51, of Lincoln, Maine, pled guilty on December 15, 2008, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and oxycodone and Social Security Fraud. Russell faces a possible sentence of at least 10 years up to life imprisonment, and a fine of not more than \$4 million for the drug charge, and up to 5 years imprisonment and up to a \$250,000 fine for the Social Security Fraud.

Court records reveal that between January 2002 and June 2005, Russell conspired with others to possess with the intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more of cocaine, 50 grams or more of cocaine base, and oxycodone. Russell was supplied with the drugs by co-conspirators, would process and package them for resale and distribute them to other co-conspirators. Russell kept some of the drug proceeds for himself and returned some of the proceeds to another co-conspirator. During his involvement in the drug conspiracy, Russell was receiving two types of Social Security benefits (Disability benefits and Supplemental Security Income benefits). Russell was required to report any substantial gainful activity to Social Security in connection with his disability benefits. He was also required to report all assets he had accrued - such as cash from the sale of narcotics - to Social Security. Russell reported neither to Social Security.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Social Security Administration - Office of the Inspector General.

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