



Department of Justice

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Northern District of Georgia

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High Ranking CDC Official Pleads Guilty to Theft

Atlanta, GA - DONNA STROUP, 54, of Decatur, Georgia, pleaded guilty today in federal district court to theft of government funds.

“Dr. Donna Stroup was a person in whom the CDC placed a great deal of trust. Dr. Stroup was serving as the Director of the Coordinating Center for Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the time law enforcement discovered her thefts. Despite her great responsibility, she chose to violate that trust by repeatedly submitting fraudulent claims for travel expenses over a three year period. This office is committed to ensuring that those entrusted with much responsibility within federal government are held accountable if they violate the law.”

According to United States Attorney Nahmias and the information presented in court: DONNA STROUP had been employed at the CDC for several years. Her responsibilities included frequent travel to speak at and participate in conferences. Between April 2002 and July 2005, on dozens of occasions, STROUP submitted travel vouchers which contained fraudulent claims and altered receipts for expenses that were not reimbursable. Many receipts for non-reimbursable expenses were altered so that the persons reviewing and approving the vouchers would not be able to easily ascertain that receipts were for non-reimbursable expenses. Usually, the top and/or bottom of the receipt was torn off to hide the identity of the vendor. The altered receipts would frequently be described on the internal CDC travel expense sheet as expenses relating to faxes, FedEx or copying. The total amount of the theft was about \$7,516.06.

During the plea hearing, the prosecutor identified one particular instance of voucher fraud: In February 2005, STROUP traveled to Washington, DC on CDC business. When she returned she submitted a voucher which included an expense described as “Photocopies for AMCHP (Powerpoint Slides)” in the amount of \$106.22. The top and the bottom of the receipt had been removed. STROUP received reimbursement for this amount in March 2005. Later, investigators determined that the receipt was associated with a purchase at Filene’s Basement department store in the amount of \$106.22, contrary to what STROUP had represented on her travel voucher.

STROUP pleaded guilty to a one count Criminal Information charging her with a misdemeanor violation of theft of government property. She could receive a maximum sentence of one year in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 14, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., before United States Magistrate Judge E. Clayton Scofield.

This case was investigated by Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services.

Assistant United States Attorney Charysse L. Alexander is prosecuting the case.

For further information please contact David E. Nahmias (pronounced NAH-me-us), United States Attorney or F. Gentry Shelnett, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/gan.