



U.S. Department of Justice

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Eastern District of Michigan

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For Immediate Release:
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Event: Convicted

Defendant: Elena Szilvagy

WOMAN CONVICTED OF FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING U.S. CITIZENSHIP

Elena Szilvagy, 57, formerly of Clarkston, Michigan was convicted by a jury today in Detroit, Michigan of procuring her United States citizenship by fraud, Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg announced today.

Szilvagy is currently serving a 48-month federal sentence for her conviction of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and mail fraud. When she is finished serving that sentence, Szilvagy will begin to serve a 31-month sentence for her convictions of conspiracy to defraud the United States and conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice and to obstruct a criminal health care fraud investigation. These two convictions stem from Szilvagy's ownership and operation of a health care company in Southfield, Michigan that defrauded Medicare of over \$850,000. Szilvagy's newest conviction stems from her failure to disclose this illegal activity in her application to become a United States citizen.

Szilvagy will be sentenced on April 30, 2009, and faces an additional sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. Szilvagy's citizenship will automatically be stripped at her sentencing.

Acting United States Attorney Terrence Berg commended the work of the Special Agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who conducted the investigation. "My office in coordination with ICE will continue to vigorously and systematically pursue those who have obtained their U.S. citizenship or other immigration benefits unlawfully."

Mr. Berg was joined in the announcement by Kathleen Alcorn, the Chief Counsel, for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement who stated that, "Ms. Szilvagyí took advantage of the welcoming system of immigration this country offers and abused the privilege first by defrauding Medicare out of hundreds of thousands of dollars to build a mansion for herself and then obtaining U.S. citizenship by lying about her crimes. Today, the jury's verdict makes clear that these types of offenses will be found out and successfully prosecuted."

The case was prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Mark Jebson.