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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**INDIANAPOLIS MAN SENTENCED TO 30 MONTHS  
FOR \$200,000 BENEFIT FRAUD**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that MICHAEL WOLFORD, 57, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 30 months imprisonment today by U.S. District Judge David F. Hamilton following his guilty plea to the charge of stealing \$219,000 from the Social Security Administration and the Veterans Administration in benefits not due to him. This case was investigated by the Offices of Inspector General of the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Veterans Administration (VA).

WOLFORD' s mother received checks from the SSA and the VA because she was the surviving widow of a veteran. WOLFORD acknowledged that after his mother' s death in May 1989, he listed a false social security number on her death certificate. As a result, benefit

checks continued to be issued in her name after her death. The checks were endorsed by WOLFORD in his mother's name and his name and deposited into a bank account WOLFORD controlled. In 1996, WOLFORD even responded to a government inquiry about whether his mother had remarried (and so should stop receiving checks) by stating that she had not remarried. Yet another inquiry years later found another family member who confirmed her death and triggered the criminal investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Christina McKee, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Hamilton also imposed 3 years supervised release following WOLFORD's release from imprisonment. WOLFORD was ordered to make restitution in the amount of \$202,103.90, the amount not yet recovered.