

Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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BROOKSVILLE MAN GETS 3 1/2 YEARS FOR IDENTITY THEFT

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces that U.S. District Judge Steven D. Merryday today sentenced Charles Wesley Dupree, a resident of Brooksville, Florida, to 42 months in federal prison for making false claims, theft of government monies and identity theft. As part of the sentence, the court also entered a money judgment in the amount of \$34,757.80 , and restitution in the amount of \$93,549.74 .

Charles Wesley Dupree pled guilty on April 14, 2009.

According to court documents, beginning in approximately 1988, exact date unknown, Charles Dupree began fraudulently using the identity of Kenneth Bailey, a resident of Neptune, New Jersey, and began using Bailey's identity as his own. The real Kenneth Bailey learned of the identity theft and applied for and received a second different Social Security Number in 1992. Charles Dupree, while pretending to be "Kenneth Bailey," continued to use the original Social Security Number assigned to Kenneth Bailey.

On January 16, 1991, a replacement Social Security Number was issued in Tampa, Florida to Charles Dupree who was pretending to be Kenneth Bailey. Dupree listed the same date of birth as the real Kenneth Bailey, but listed a different mother's maiden name on the application.

On March 30, 2005, an application for disability benefits was submitted by Dupree as "Kenneth Bailey" using the real Bailey's original Social Security Number and listed an address in Ohio. Dupree was awarded benefits as "Bailey." Dupree moved to New York and then later to Florida, and the Social Security Checks were mailed to him at those locations.

Between approximately 1988 and 1991, Dupree and the real "Kenneth Bailey" both posted earnings to the Social Security Number which was initially issued to the real Bailey. Law enforcement received information from a confidential source that back in the late 80's, Dupree had found a wallet belonging to Kenneth Bailey while on vacation in Florida. Dupree then changed his name and began using the identity of Bailey. The real Kenneth Bailey was interviewed and he admitted losing his wallet in Florida at that time. Based upon information received from the confidential source, law enforcement was able to research the real Kenneth Bailey's Social Security Number history and through a review of work records confirmed that 2 people were initially using the same number. When the real Kenneth Bailey got a new Social Security Number, the old Social Security Number was continued to be used by Charles Dupree. Further, Dupree applied for Title 16 and Title 2 Social Security benefits using Bailey's original Social Security Number. Dupree was awarded disability benefits based in part upon the income of the real Kenneth Bailey in error, as his true identity as Charles Dupree was unknown. Law enforcement was able to compare fingerprints from an arrest of Charles Dupree to an arrest of Charles Dupree as "Kenneth Bailey" and it was confirmed to be the same individual. Based upon Dupree's false representations of himself as "Kenneth Bailey" and his misuse of the real Kenneth

Bailey's original Social Security Number, Dupree received more money in Social Security Benefits than he was entitled as the amount was based on earnings of the real Kenneth Bailey. Dupree received approximately \$93,549.74 in disability benefits while posing as Kenneth Bailey. Had the true facts been known to Social Security, Dupree would have received \$34,757.80 less in Title 2 benefits as this amount was based upon the true Bailey's income and not Dupree's.

On September 3, 2008, in Pasco County, while at a continuing disability review meeting at the Social Security office in Port Richey, Florida, Dupree falsely represented himself to be "Kenneth Bailey" and claimed to have never used any other names. Dupree also presented a Social Security Card with the original Social Security number issued to Bailey, as well as an Ohio Identification card which contained Dupree's picture, but was in the name of Kenneth F. Bailey.

This case was investigated by the Social Security Administration, Office of the Inspector General. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Amanda C. Kaiser.

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