



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARKANSAS WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING ANOTHER WOMAN'S IDENTITY TO COVER HER OWN CRIMINAL PAST

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that an Arkansas woman pleaded guilty in federal court today to using a false Social Security number to steal the identity of another woman.

Terry Floy Sharon, 45, of Benton County, Ark., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to falsely using a Social Security number that was not assigned to her by the Commissioner of Social Security.

By pleading guilty, **Sharon** admitted that she used a false Social Security number on Aug. 4, 2000, in order to obtain a new/replacement Social Security card. **Sharon** used the identification information of another woman in order to obtain the replacement card and create a false identity for herself, Graves said.

Sharon also admitted to using the false Social Security number on several occasions in an attempt to receive Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Originally, **Sharon** assumed the identity of the other woman to avoid apprehension on a probation violation warrant from Arkansas. In carrying out the identity theft, **Sharon** also used the false Social Security number to obtain a Missouri Identification Card. The card bears **Sharon's** picture, but the other woman's name. In addition to using the false number to receive SSI benefits, **Sharon** also used the woman's name and Social Security number to obtain benefits from the State of Missouri, Graves said.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Sharon** may be subject to a sentence of up to five years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. Her sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled

after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose A. Barber. It was investigated by the Social Security Administration, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Springfield, Mo., Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow