



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **ARKANSAS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR 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 was sentenced in federal court today for stealing the identity of another woman to obtain a false Social Security number, which she used to receive benefits.

**Terry Floy Sharon**, 45, of Benton County, Ark., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to 15 months in federal prison without parole.

On Sept. 2, 2003, **Sharon** pleaded guilty to using a Social Security number that was not assigned to her by the Commissioner of Social Security. **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, Graves said, **Sharon** assumed and used the identity of the other woman in part 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.

The case was 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.

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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](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)