

Two plead guilty to hurricane Katrina fraud

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

DETROIT - Two residents of Bloomington, Ind., plead guilty today to one count of mail fraud in connection to false claims they made to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Attorney Stephen J. Murphy of the Eastern District of Michigan announced today. Andrea Reason, 53, and Dwight Reason, 35, plead guilty before U.S. District Judge Marianne O. Battani.

According to documents filed in each case, both Andrea Reason and Dwight Reason admitted that they applied for Hurricane Katrina disaster benefits from the FEMA, knowing that they were not entitled to benefits. Both defendants provided their Social Security numbers and dates of birth to another person who used the information to apply for benefits on their behalf. As a result, FEMA sent benefit checks to Andrea Reason in the amounts of \$2,358 and \$2,000 and a check in the amount of \$2,358 to Dwight Reason. In each case the checks were delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.

A conviction for the offense of mail fraud carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and or a \$250,000 fine.

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