



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA

ALEXANDRIA NEWPORT NEWS NORFOLK RICHMOND

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NORTH CAROLINA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT

(Richmond, VA) – Kevin Wayne Fullard, age 48, of Charlotte, North Carolina, pled guilty today to charges of aggravated identity theft. Fullard faces a mandatory two years in federal prison, and a fine of up to \$250,000 when he is sentenced by United States District Judge Richard L. Williams on June 6, 2007. The guilty plea was announced by Chuck Rosenberg, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia; and Rob Childress, Resident Agent in Charge, Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration.

The charge against Fullard stems from his theft and repeated use of his uncle's identity, including the uncle's name and social security number. According to a statement of facts accompanying the plea, Fullard committed the initial identity theft in approximately 2000. Thereafter, Fullard assumed his uncle's name, and used his identity in applying for identification documents and employment.

Between approximately 2003 and 2006, when the uncle died of cancer, Fullard's unauthorized use of his uncle's identity resulted in harm to the uncle and the uncle's wife. Specifically, the couple received notices from federal and state tax authorities that the uncle had under-reported his income and owed thousands of dollars in back taxes. The apparent under-reporting in fact resulted from income Fullard earned in the uncle's name. Until the matter was cleared up, tax authorities garnished the uncle's wife's pay check to satisfy the tax bills. Fullard's theft of the uncle's identity also negatively impacted the couple's credit rating, after Fullard failed to pay a cell phone bill and purchased a car that was repossessed for non-payment.

Fullard was one of fifty-one defendants charged with identity theft-related crimes in November 2006 as a result of investigations conducted by members of the Metro-Richmond Identity Theft Task Force. The charges and subsequent arrests referred to as "Operation Reconcile" were announced at a joint press conference held by United States Attorney Rosenberg and Virginia Attorney General Robert F. McDonnell. For more information on the Task Force, including assistance for victims of identity theft, visit: www.richmondIDtheft.com.

The case was investigated by the Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration. Assistant United States Attorney John S. Davis is prosecuting the case on behalf of the United States.

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