



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: December 9, 2010

Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Obtaining Convictions for Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that the Department has successfully prosecuted several Alabamians for unemployment compensation fraud. The following individuals were charged with violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law by making false statements in claims for benefits.

- Matthew Patrick Roney, of Saraland, was tried in Mobile County District Court on November 29, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Roney received a total of \$4,410.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Roney pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for 24 months. He was also to pay fines and court costs as well as to restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Anthony Prewitt, of Foley, was tried in Baldwin County District Court on September 8, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Prewitt received a total of \$5,596.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Prewitt was sentenced to serve 46 months in jail, with six months to be served in the Baldwin County Jail, the remainder to be served with the Alabama Department of Corrections, and was placed on three years of probation. He was also ordered to pay a \$250 fine, \$100 to the Victims Compensation Fund, court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Aaron Donyell Mitchell, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on November 16, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Mitchell received a total of \$4,120.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Mitchell was found guilty and sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for 24 months. He was ordered to pay a \$250 fine, court costs, and restitution in

the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Mary Miller, of Talladega, was tried in Talladega County District Court on November 5, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Miller received a total of \$4,339.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Miller pled guilty and was required to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- William Tucker, Jr., of Prattville, was tried in Autauga County District Court on October 27, 2010. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Tucker received a total of \$2,168.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Tucker was found guilty and sentenced to 30 days in jail, which was suspended for 24 months. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“We at the Department of Industrial Relations want people to know that we are aggressively pursuing cases of unemployment compensation fraud,” said Surtees. “Especially in these economic times, we want to make sure that all who are entitled to benefits receive them. But at the same time, we will not allow those who deliberately try to defraud the system to go unpunished. We are working with local District Attorney Offices to make sure that we can identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes.”

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to the Department of Industrial Relations by calling 1-800-392-8019.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.