



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

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Alabama Department of Labor Obtaining Convictions for Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner 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.

- Feleicia Cobb, of Montgomery, was tried in Montgomery County District Court on October 22, 2012. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Cobb received a total of \$3,672.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Cobb pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended. She was also ordered to pay a \$262.00 fine, court costs, and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Roland Prickett, of Opelika, was tried in Lee County District Court on October 30, 2012. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Prickett received a total of \$8,118.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Prickett was found guilty and was sentenced to serve six months in jail, which was suspended, and two years of probation. He was also ordered to complete 20 hours of community service, fined \$500.00, and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Gregory Adams, of Montgomery, was tried in Montgomery County District Court on October 29, 2012. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Adams received a total of \$3,048.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Adams pled guilty and was sentenced to one year of supervised probation. He was also

ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Gary Gilmore, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on October 4, 2012. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Gilmore received a total of \$1,670.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Gilmore pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years. He was also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Willie J. Whatley, of Millbrook, was tried in Elmore County District Court on October 9, 2012. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Whatley received a total of \$2,165.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Whatley pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. He was also fined \$50.00 and required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Scott H. Chambliss, of Tallassee, was tried in Elmore County District Court on October 9, 2012. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Chambliss received a total of \$1,618.00 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Chambliss pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. He was also fined \$50.00 and required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- LaSandra Chatman, of Talladega, was tried in Talladega County District Court on October 4, 2012. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Chatman received a total of \$1,311.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Chatman pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended pending restitution.

- Kingma L. Harris, of Union Springs, was tried in Bullock County District Court on October 3, 2012. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Harris received a total of \$2,651.00 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Harris pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended, and two years of probation. She was also fined \$500.00 and required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“We at the Alabama Department of Labor 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 Alabama Department of Labor by calling 1-800-392-8019.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.