



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:

- Elizabeth M. Folsom, of Piedmont, was tried in Calhoun County District Court on May 6, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Folsom received a total of \$3,127 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Folsom pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended and given two years of unsupervised probation. She was fined \$500 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Antonius Lee, of Greensboro, was tried in Hale County District Court on May 1, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Lee received a total of \$2,342 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Lee pled guilty and was sentenced to six months in jail, which was suspended for six months, and one year of unsupervised probation, pending behavior of the defendant. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Aaron Bryant, of Bessemer, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on May 5, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Bryant received a total of \$2,032 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Bryant pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Arthur Lewis Boone, of Mobile, was tried in Mobile County District Court on May 12, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Boone received a total of \$6,890 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Boone pled guilty and was placed on probation, pending good behavior and restitution. He was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Charles Martin, of Reform, was tried in Pickens County District Court on May 6, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Martin received a total of \$6,226 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Martin pled guilty and was sentenced to 180 days in jail, which was suspended for 180 days and given two years of probation, pending behavior of the defendant. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Sharonda K. Mallory, of Childersburg, was tried in Talladega County District Court on May 1, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Mallory received a total of \$2,915 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Mallory pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended, and was given one year of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Robert Abston, of Cottondale, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on May 7, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Abston received a total of \$1,924 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Abston pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for 90 days pending behavior of the defendant, and two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Gregory Richardson, of Tuscaloosa, was tried in Tuscaloosa County District Court on April 30, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Richardson received a total of \$9,510 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Richardson pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for 90 days pending behavior of the defendant, and two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

The following individual was charged with Theft of Property, 1st Degree:

- Orlando Darby, of Huntsville, was tried in Madison County Circuit Court on May 9, 2014. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Darby received a total of \$3,875 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Darby pled guilty to Theft of Property, 3rd degree, and was sentenced to one year in jail which was suspended for two years. He was also required to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

“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,” said Surtees. “We are working with local District Attorney Offices to make sure that we can identify and prosecute those individuals who are committing these crimes. We would also like to remind employers that their timely reporting of new hires is one of the best tools we have to detect unemployment fraud.”

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

Employers may find more information regarding reporting new hires at <http://www.labor.alabama.gov/nh>.

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