



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:

- Arika D. Walker, of Columbiana, was tried in Shelby County District Court on August 14, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Walker received a total of \$1,926 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Walker pled guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. She was also fined \$50 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Derrick L. Slaughter, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on August 21, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Slaughter received a total of \$2,533 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Slaughter pled guilty and was sentenced to 12 months in jail, suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of probation. He was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- James A. Johnson, of Alexander City, was tried in Tallapoosa County District Court on August 19, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Johnson received a total of \$1,525 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Johnson was found guilty and was sentenced to 12 months 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.

- Charles Hilyer, of Birmingham, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on June 19, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hilyer received a total of \$4,660 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Hilyer pled guilty and was sentenced to 12 months in jail, which was suspended for two years, pending restitution. He was also ordered to pay restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- King Hutchinson, of Auburn, was tried in Lee County District Court on August 8, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hutchinson received a total of \$2,560 in benefits to which he was not entitled.

Hutchinson pled guilty and was sentenced to 30 days in jail, which was suspended. He was also fined \$ XX and ordered to pay court costs. Restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally was paid prior to the court date.

- Felecia L. Craig, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on July 25, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Craig received a total of \$2,054 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Craig pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and two years of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Lynn Reeves, of Selma, was tried in Dallas County District Court on July 25, 2013. An investigation by Labor's Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Reeves received a total of \$3,113 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Reeves pled guilty and was sentenced to 60 days in jail, which was suspended for two years pending restitution, and given two years of unsupervised probation. She was also ordered to pay court costs and 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
<https://labor.alabama.gov/uc/partials/default.aspx>.

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