



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2010**

**CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
YUSILL SCRIBNER,
EDELI RIVERA,
JESSIE ERWIN
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600**

**DOE OIG
CATHERINE GRANT
(202) 245-7023**

**SSA
EDWARD RYAN
(212) 264-2500**

**NEW JERSEY MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN MANHATTAN FEDERAL COURT
TO STEALING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS**

PREET BHARARA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, BRIAN HICKEY, Special-Agent-in-Charge of the Northeast Region of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Inspector General, and EDWARD J. RYAN, Special-Agent-in-Charge of the New York Field Division of the Social Security Administration ("SSA"), announced today that WILLIAM JENKINS pled guilty in Manhattan federal court to stealing his deceased mother's social security benefits.

According to the Information to which JENKINS pled guilty before U.S. District Court Judge JED S. RAKOFF, the criminal Complaint previously filed in this case, and statements made during the guilty plea proceeding:

JENKINS, 53, of Jackson, New Jersey, had access to his mother's bank account into which the SSA direct deposited her monthly social security benefits. After failing to notify the SSA of his mother's death, JENKINS withdrew the monthly benefits from that account for his personal use from June 2008 through November 2009. In total, JENKINS stole \$30,079.33 in Social Security benefits.

JENKINS pled guilty to theft of government funds, which carries a maximum sentence of ten years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000, or twice the gross gain or loss from the offense. In addition, pursuant to JENKINS's plea agreement with the Government, JENKINS will forfeit \$30,079.33 to the U.S.

Government as full restitution. JENKINS is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge RAKOFF on February 7, 2011.

Mr. BHARARA praised the investigative work of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Inspector General, and the Social Security Administration.

Assistant U.S. Attorney CARRIE H. COHEN is in charge of the prosecution.

10-312

###