



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: August 31, 2009

Alabamians Charged with Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY – Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that the following individuals were successfully prosecuted for violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law. They were charged with making false statements in claims for unemployment benefits:

- Ronald Oliver Bryant, of Jackson, was tried in Clarke County District Court on August 26, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Bryant received a total of \$1,127.00 in unemployment benefits to which he was not entitled.

Bryant was found guilty and sentenced to one year, which was suspended for 24 months. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Tyler Stacey Carpenter, of Millry, was tried in Washington County District Court on July 30, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Carpenter received a total of \$3,459.00 in unemployment benefits to which he was not entitled.

Carpenter was found guilty and sentenced to nine months in jail, which was suspended for 24 months. He was also required to pay court costs and restitution in the amount of benefits received illegally.

- Tamika Wilson, of Bessemer, was tried in Jefferson County District Court on August 11, 2009. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Wilson received a total of \$1,122.00 in unemployment benefits to which she was not entitled.

Wilson pled guilty and was sentenced to one year in jail, suspended for 24 months. She was also fined \$200 and 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.