



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

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PRESS RELEASE

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Maryland Woman is Sentenced Connection with Theft from Organization that Provides Services to Victims of Child Abuse

–The Scheme involved issuing extra paychecks –

Washington, D.C. - Acting United States Attorney Channing D. Phillips and U.S. Department of Justice, Inspector General Glenn A. Fine announced today that Sharon Martin, 44, of Foxhound Court, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, was sentenced by the Honorable Ricardo M. Urbina, United States District Court Judge, to five years of probation, six months of home detention, and restitution of \$15,857.15, in connection with her earlier guilty plea to a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 666(a)(1)(A), Theft or Bribery Concerning Programs Receiving Federal Funds, in connection with a scheme to steal money from the National Children's Alliance, a non-profit organization that assists victims of child abuse.

According to information provided to the court, National Children's Alliance ("NCA"), is located at 516 C Street, NE, Washington, D.C. NCA is a nation-wide, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote and support communities in providing a coordinated investigation and comprehensive response to victims of severe child abuse. The organization provides services to Children's Advocacy Centers, multi-disciplinary teams, and professionals across the country. NCA receives federal assistance to operate its programs. Since 1995, NCA has received approximately \$76 million dollars in federal grant money from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs.

From approximately August 22, 1994 until May10, 2007, Martin was employed at NCA as the Finance/Senior Staff Director. As such, she was an agent of NCA, in that her duties included responsibility for finance and accounting functions. She was required to perform day-to-day accounting activities and was responsible for monitoring NCA's monthly costs and reflecting those costs within the annual budget framework. She also implemented accounting policies and procedures and interfaced with NCA's auditors and banks. She was responsible for reconciling the checking and savings accounts each month. She also worked closely with the NCA Grants Department to ensure timely processing of check requests and payments.

Martin illegally obtained NCA monies in the form of additional paychecks, above and beyond those to which she was entitled by reason of her salary, when she or a co-worker called in additional payroll for her to the company that handles payroll for NCA. As a result of this scheme, from approximately October 31, 2005 through May 9, 2007, Martin wrongfully received additional paychecks that totaled \$15,857.15. The investigation into this matter is on-going.

In announcing today's sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips and Inspector General Fine commended the work of Special Agent Greg Tremaglio, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the case.

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