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**FOUR MEMBERS OF A SOUTH KING COUNTY FAMILY PLEAD GUILTY TO
DISABILITY FRAUD SCHEME**

Defendants Defrauded SSI for more than 30 Years and \$350,000

Four members of one family pleaded guilty today in U.S. District Court in Seattle to a scheme to defraud the Social Security Administration and Washington State Department of Social and Health Services of more than \$350,000. The 30-year fraud involved a couple and their children pretending that various family members were developmentally disabled and needed constant care. Not only did the parents apply for benefits, they had their children apply for benefits as either disabled, or as caregivers. The children continued the fraud once they became adults. JOHNNY GEORGE, 54, LINDA GEORGE, 55, and their children PAUL GEORGE, 35, and CRISTINA GEORGE aka Cookie Miller, entered guilty pleas to a variety of fraud and theft charges. A second daughter, DANNA GEORGE, had already entered a guilty plea. U.S. District Judge Robert S. Lasnik is scheduled to sentence the four in June 2012.

The GEORGE family fraud continued over a 31-year period, netting the defendants more than \$350,000. The scam began in 1979 when JOHNNY GEORGE fraudulently obtained a second Social Security number and, using this second identity, applied for disability. In 1983, JOHNNY GEORGE and his wife, LINDA GEORGE applied for disability on behalf of their son PAUL GEORGE. Both men claimed to be developmentally disabled and unable to work or care for themselves. JOHNNY GEORGE claimed to be unable to feed himself, read, write or work. At the same time he claimed to be disabled, however, JOHNNY GEORGE owned and operated a used car lot. PAUL GEORGE claimed to be profoundly disabled, and unable to care for himself, but he was also working in the business of buying and selling cars. The men used alternate Social Security numbers to live non-disabled lives at the same time they were collecting benefits. LINDA GEORGE, who is JOHNNY's wife and PAUL's mother, made numerous false statements to Social Security and to evaluators, and obtained numerous false identity documents. LINDA GEORGE served as their representative payee and she received and cashed the monthly benefit checks for her husband and son.

CHRISTINA GEORGE, the daughter of JOHNNY and LINDA GEORGE, also used false identities to illegally collect benefits from state and federal programs. In the Cookie Miller fake persona, she applied to be the representative payee of a person named L.M., who also

falsely claimed to be disabled. She was paid nearly \$24,000 in benefits she did not deserve. CHRISTINA GEORGE also claimed to DSHS that she provided in home daily care to S.G., an elderly family member who resided in Kent, Washington, even though CHRISTINA GEORGE resided in Vancouver, Washington, nearly 150 miles away. From February 2010, to June 2011, DSHS fraudulently paid CHRISTINA more than \$19,000 for caretaking services she did not perform.

The case is one of a number of disability fraud cases filed in U.S. District Court in the Western District of Washington this year. The cases are being investigated by the Social Security Office of Inspector General (SSA-OIG) Cooperative Disabilities Investigation Unit and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Inspector General (HUD-OIG), with assistance from the Washington State Patrol, the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services Office of Fraud and Accountability, and the Washington State Department of Licensing Fraud Investigation Unit.

The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mary K. Dimke and Special Assistant United States Attorney Seth Wilkinson. Mr. Wilkinson is an attorney with the Social Security Administration specially designated to prosecute Social Security fraud in federal court.

For additional information please contact Emily Langlie, Public Affairs Officer for the United States Attorney's Office, at (206) 553-4110 or Emily.Langlie@USDOJ.Gov.