



# Department of Justice

## United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian Northern District of New York

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### **DEFENDANTS ADMITS SOCIAL SECURITY SCAM**

#### ***Failed to Report Assets that would have Affected Continued Right to Benefits***

ALBANY, NEW YORK —United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced that Robert M. Vivas pled guilty today before Senior United States District Judge Lawrence E. Kahn to one felony count of failing to disclose information affecting the right to continued receipt of Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits that he received on behalf of his minor son.

Vivas, age 44, of Hudson, admitted in Court today that he repeatedly failed to disclose assets, including certificate of deposit accounts, a joint bank account, and stocks, that would have affected his right to continued receipt of SSI benefits on behalf of his minor son, resulting in an overpayment from May 2006 through October 2009 totaling approximately \$27,650.00. He now faces a maximum sentence of up to five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, plus mandatory restitution to the Social Security Administration. Sentencing in the case was set for **Thursday, March 29, 2012, at 10:30 am**, before Senior Judge Kahn in Albany.

The investigation in this matter was conducted by the local office of the SSA Office of Inspector General, and the case is being prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

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