



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 18, 2006**

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## Unemployment Insurance Fraud Crackdown Results in Fines, Criminal Records

CRANSTON – Adelita S. Orefice, Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, (DLT), announced that DLT has prosecuted twenty-six individuals for Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud in 2006, resulting in dispositions and restitution of \$196,517, including four cases involving restitution of more than \$10,000 each. Director Orefice noted that individuals who fraudulently collect UI benefits will be aggressively pursued for criminal charges. Today, there are currently fifty-nine cases of alleged UI fraud pending final disposition from the court system, involving a total of \$416,184. Director Orefice emphasized, “Prevention, detection, and elimination of fraud and abuse in the UI program are one of our top priorities. We want to ensure that eligible individuals receive unemployment benefits—we don’t want fraud and theft to eat away at this important safety net.”

Unemployment Insurance compensates workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own and are actively seeking work. Raymond Filippone, Assistant Director for Income Support, confirmed, “If DLT discovers that claimants have received UI benefits through fraudulent means, we require immediate reimbursement of overpayments in order for those claimants to avoid criminal prosecution and conviction.”

Unemployment Insurance fraud is a serious crime which can result in a criminal record. DLT may seek penalties under applicable laws, which may include a felony charge for each offense. Conviction may result in incarceration and/or restitution, and may bring the additional charges of court costs and fines along with community service. Examples of fraud include giving false information, and failing to report earnings from self-employment or other work performed while collecting UI benefits.

Four cases in 2006 that involved restitution of over \$10,000 each:

- In January 2006, Elizabeth Turner of Johnston, RI, entered a nolo plea to an amended charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, a misdemeanor for UI fraud. She was sentenced to one year probation and court ordered restitution of \$10,051.
- In February 2006, Joanita Ferrer of East Providence, RI entered a nolo plea to an amended charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, a misdemeanor for UI fraud. She was sentenced to one year probation and restitution of \$21,101.
- In February 2006, Donald Jarvis of Portsmouth, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$10,104.
- In May 2006, Michael Kelley of West Greenwich, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$11,155.

The 22 remaining cases of UI fraud prosecuted to date in 2006 are:

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- In January 2006, Tracey Ross of Warwick, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. She was sentenced to five years deferred sentence, probation for five years and restitution of \$7,981.
- In January 2006, Ricci Harmann of Johnston, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to two years suspended sentence, probation for five years and restitution of \$4,914.
- In January 2006, Myrna Vazquez of Providence, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. She was sentenced to two years probation and restitution of \$5,390.
- In January 2006, Brandon Ramos of Pawtucket, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to four years probation and restitution of \$8,984.
- In January 2006, Andrew Luczynski of Newport, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$5,490.
- In February 2006, Robert Hall of Pawtucket, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$5,248.
- In February 2006, Naomi Snead of East Providence, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. She was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$5,238.
- In March 2006, John Robinson of Smithfield, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$8,106.
- In March 2006, Sean White of East Providence, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$5,340.
- In March 2006, Bruce Algier of Westerly, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years probation and restitution of \$5,241.
- In March 2006, Gregory Bramble of Pawtucket, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$7,476.
- In March 2006, Angelique Fagan of West Warwick, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. She was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$5,526.
- In April 2006, Dorothy Chivers of Providence, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. She was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$5,881.
- In April 2006, Sylvia Dubois of Cranston, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. She was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$4,966.
- In April 2006, David Baxter of Exeter, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to four years probation and restitution of \$9,513.
- In May 2006, Nicholas Forsythe of Cranston, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$7,529.
- In May 2006, Nicholas Squillace of Johnston, RI, entered a nolo plea to obtaining money under false pretenses, a felony for UI fraud. He was sentenced to five years deferred sentence and restitution of \$4,989.
- In February 2006, Michael Fothergill of Cumberland, RI, entered a nolo plea to an amended charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, a misdemeanor for UI fraud. He was sentenced to one year probation and restitution of \$6,689.

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- In April 2006, David Sylvestre of Woonsocket, RI, entered a nolo plea to an amended charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, a misdemeanor for UI fraud. He was sentenced to one year probation and restitution of \$8,433.
- In April 2006, Enzo Mesiti of Greenville, RI, entered a nolo plea to an amended charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, a misdemeanor for UI fraud. He was sentenced to one year probation and restitution of \$8,346.
- In April 2006, Michael Stanley of Providence, RI, entered a nolo plea to an amended charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, a misdemeanor for UI fraud. He was sentenced to one year probation and restitution of \$5,544.
- In June 2006, Raymond Bruins of Woonsocket, RI, entered a nolo plea to an amended charge of larceny, a misdemeanor for UI fraud. He was sentenced to one year probation and restitution of \$7,282.

“Maintaining the integrity of Rhode Island’s Unemployment Insurance program is a key priority for the UI Administration,” reiterated Filippone. “We take a strong stand against anyone who tries to defraud the UI system. It is critical that we protect the integrity of the UI program in Rhode Island to ensure it remains financially secure and the funds are available to help those who are legitimately entitled to Unemployment Insurance benefits.”

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*The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training offers a wide array of employment and training services to both the general public and to individuals with unusual barriers to employment. DLT is ready to assist any job seeker, whether the goal is a first job, a better job, or a career change. Rhode Island’s work force is protected through the enforcement of labor laws, prevailing wage rates, and work place health and safety standards. Temporary income support is available to unemployed, sick, or injured workers and a comprehensive rehabilitation program is available to those injured on the job.*

*DLT is dedicated to the growth and competitiveness of Rhode Island industry, administering a variety of training grants, tax credits, and apprenticeship programs to help employers. Economic indicators and labor market information are available for long-range planning. The Agency engages in active outreach, helping large and small employers retain their best workers or retrain their existing work force. At no cost to the employer, DLT will also screen job applicants, post job vacancies, and help businesses institute cost-sharing programs that can avert layoffs.*

*For more information on the innovative programs and services available to all Rhode Islanders at the Department of Labor and Training, please call (401) 462-8000 or visit the web site at [www.dlt.ri.gov](http://www.dlt.ri.gov).*

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