



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Jeffrey A. Taylor
United States Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

USAO Public Affairs

(202) 514-6933

www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc

**Maryland Woman Pleads Guilty in Connection with Theft from
Organization that Provides Services to Victims of Child Abuse**

-- Scheme involved issuing extra paychecks --

Washington - A 44-year-old Upper Marlboro, Maryland woman, Sharon Martin, has pleaded guilty to the charge of 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, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and U.S. Department of Justice Inspector General Glen A. Fine announced today.

Martin entered her guilty plea this afternoon in U.S. District Court before the Honorable Ricardo M. Urbina, U.S. District Court Judge. Martin faces a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, a 3-year term of supervised release, and an order of restitution. Under the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, Martin faces a sentence of up to 6 months of incarceration and a fine of up to \$10,000. Sentencing is scheduled for August 3, 2009.

According to information provided to the court by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, the National Children's Alliance ("NCA") is located at 516 C Street, NE, Washington, D.C. NCA is a nationwide 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 May 10, 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 guilty plea, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Inspector General Fine commended the work of Special Agent Greg Tremaglio, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, and the staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Lisa Robinson and Assistant U.S. Attorney Sherri L. Schornstein, who is prosecuting the case.

###