

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWC Prosecutes Greater San Antonio-Area Claimants for Unemployment Insurance Fraud

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) warns that criminal prosecutions for Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud are pursued aggressively. TWC refers cases in which UI benefits are obtained through fraud or deception to respective local district attorney offices. TWC has provided evidence resulting in the recent prosecutions of seven Greater San Antonio-area claimants. Restitution orders totaling \$29,616 will be returned to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, which TWC administers for the state of Texas.

Bexar County

- David Flores, 30, received two years deferred adjudication probation from the 186th District Court on the charge of state jail felony theft. Flores was ordered to make \$3,394 restitution, pay a \$400 fine and \$293 in court costs, and perform 120 hours of community service.
- Steven C. Hudkins, 46, received three years deferred adjudication probation from the 399th District Court on the charge of state jail felony theft. Hudkins made \$1,000 restitution before sentencing and was ordered to make the remaining \$2,280 as a condition of probation. Hudkins also was ordered to pay a \$1,500 fine and \$293 in court costs, and perform 200 hours of community service.
- Bill Lee, 41, received two years deferred adjudication probation from the 227th District Court on the charge of state jail felony theft. Lee was ordered to make \$5,871 restitution, pay a \$1,000 fine and \$293 in court costs, and perform 100 hours of community service.
- Willie Medina, 61, received two years deferred adjudication probation from the 144th District Court on the charge of state jail felony theft. Medina was ordered to make \$3,809 restitution and pay a \$550 fine.
- Dora D. New-Smith, 48, received five years deferred adjudication probation from the 187th District Court on the charge of state jail felony theft. New-Smith was ordered to make \$3,784 restitution, pay a \$500 fine and \$293 in court costs, and perform 100 hours of community service.

Guadalupe County

- Charles W. May, 52, received two years deferred adjudication probation from the 25th District Court on the charge of state jail felony theft. May made \$4,627 restitution before sentencing, was ordered to pay \$263 in court costs and perform 40 hours of community service.

Kerr County

- James R. Jackson, 46, was convicted of state jail felony securing execution of document by deception by the 216th District Court and was sentenced to five years regular probation. Jackson was ordered to make \$4,851 restitution, pay a \$500 fine and \$230 in court costs, and perform 200 hours of community service.

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TWC's Regulatory Integrity Division is charged with detecting and preventing fraud, waste and abuse. The division enforces all regulatory statutes within the jurisdiction of the agency, including Tax, Workforce, Trade Act, Skills Development, Self-Sufficiency, Child Care and all other programs that TWC administers. Prevention, detection and elimination of fraud and abuse in the UI program are top priorities, ensuring that funds are available exclusively to those who meet the eligibility requirements.

TWC administers UI benefits to workers who become unemployed through no fault of their own and are actively seeking work. TWC regularly cross matches UI claims with employer wage reports and other databases to detect possible UI fraud. If TWC discovers that claimants have received UI benefits through fraudulent applications, the agency seeks immediate reimbursement of overpayments. Examples of UI fraud include giving false information and failure to report self-employment or other earnings while receiving UI benefits.

To report suspected UI fraud, call the TWC Fraud and Program Abuse Hotline at (800) 252-3642. For monthly updates on fraud convictions, see TWC's Web site at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/ui/bnfts/prosecutiondispo.html>.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.