



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan
District of Massachusetts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 14, 2008
WWW.USDOJ.GOV/USAO/MA

CONTACT: CHRISTINA DiIORIO-STERLING
PHONE: (617)748-3356
E-MAIL: USAMA.MEDIA@USDOJ.GOV

LOWELL MAN SENTENCED TO JAIL FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD

BOSTON, MA - A Lowell man was sentenced late Friday in federal court for defrauding the Social Security Administration by accepting 8 years worth of Social Security Disability Income to which he was not entitled.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan and Jeff Paula, Special Agent in Charge of the Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations - Boston Field Division, announced that **MICHAEL PIZZA**, age 40, of 159 Wood Street, Lowell, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge F. Dennis Saylor, IV to 5 months imprisonment to be followed by 5 months of home confinement and 3 years of supervised release. **PIZZA** was also ordered to pay \$100,202.10 in restitution to the Social Security Administration and a \$10,000 fine. **PIZZA** was released on conditions and ordered to surrender for his period of incarceration as directed by the Bureau of Prisons.

PIZZA pled guilty to Social Security Fraud on April 11, 2008. At the plea hearing, the prosecutor told the Court that had the case proceeded to trial the Government's evidence would have proven that from 1997 through 2005, the Defendant failed to report his employment to the Social Security Administration and accepted Social Security Disability Income benefits totaling \$100,202.10 to which he was not entitled. While receiving benefits, the Defendant was employed as a nurse and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing.

The case was investigated by the Office of the Inspector General, Social Security Administration, Office of Investigations - Boston Field Division. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Karin M. Bell of Sullivan's Worcester Branch Office.

###