



State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

2135 RIMROCK ROAD • Mail Stop 624A • P.O. BOX 8933 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708-8933 • 608-266-6466 • FAX (608) 266-5718
<http://www.revenue.wi.gov>

Scott Walker
Governor

Richard G. Chandler
Secretary of Revenue

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CONTACT: Nicole Anspach, 608-266-2300

MILWAUKEE WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TAX AND BENEFITS FRAUD

A Milwaukee woman, Denitra T. Aldridge, 28, was sentenced to five years in prison this week for tax and public assistance benefits fraud after pleading guilty to felony charges. Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Joseph Donald stayed the prison sentence and placed her on probation for four years with one year of conditioned time.

According to the criminal complaint, in 2011 and 2012 Aldridge and another woman, Latoya Curtis, who has previously pled guilty, conspired to file more than 30 fraudulent income tax returns under false names. They created fake wage and withholding tax statements (W2's) claiming that these people worked for Stairway to Success, a now defunct day care that Curtis previously operated. They used the fake wage statements in attempts to get refunds of state and federal income taxes that were never actually withheld.

The complaint also alleged that between July 2008 and May 2012, Aldridge made false representations to the Department of Children and Families to secure public assistance from the Wisconsin Shares Program and to the Department of Health Services to obtain Medical Assistance and Foodshare benefits.

Judge Donald also ordered Aldridge to pay \$53,875 in restitution to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, as well as \$10,682 to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

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