



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: March 31, 2009

Mobile Residents Arrested and Convicted of Unemployment Compensation Fraud

MONTGOMERY—Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that two Mobile residents have been arrested and convicted for making false statements in claims for unemployment compensation benefits. This is a violation of the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law.

Adarryll Ward, and Sevena C. McClain, both of Mobile, were tried in the Mobile County District Court on March 3, 2009, and March 17, 2009, respectively. An investigation by the Industrial Relations Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Ward received a total of \$2,743.00 in unemployment compensation benefits to which he was not entitled, and McClain received a total of \$1,123.00.

Both were found guilty and sentenced to one year in prison, in addition to repaying the amount of illegally received benefits and court costs.

“The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, in cooperation with the offices of local District Attorneys, is continuing to actively pursue indictments and arrests of those who allegedly draw unemployment compensation benefits illegally,” said Surtees. “The successful prosecution of these cases helps to maintain the integrity of the state’s Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, which is used to pay benefits to citizens who are truly qualified to receive the money.”

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to the Department of Industrial Relations by calling this toll-free number: 1-800-392-8019.

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Members of the media seeking more information should contact Public Information Officer Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.