

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gulf Coast-Area Claimants Prosecuted for Unemployment Insurance Fraud**

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) warns that criminal prosecutions for Unemployment Insurance (UI) fraud are pursued aggressively. The agency refers cases in which UI benefits are obtained through fraud or deception to respective local district attorneys offices. TWC provided evidence resulting in the recent prosecutions of 12 Gulf Coast-area claimants. Restitution orders totaling \$75,786 will be returned to the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, which TWC administers for the state of Texas.

- Kimberly Black, 28, received one year deferred adjudication probation from the 228<sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County, on the charge of state jail felony theft. Black paid full restitution of \$8,528 before sentencing and was ordered to pay a \$100 fine.
- Oscar J. Dawkins Jr., 49, received 10 years deferred adjudication probation from the 344<sup>th</sup> District Court, Chambers County, on the charge of state jail felony theft. Dawkins was ordered to pay \$3,960 restitution and court costs totaling \$1,623, and to perform 400 hours of community service.
- Truman L. Fountain Jr., 42, was convicted of state jail felony theft by the 209<sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County. Fountain was sentenced to six months in a state jail.
- Timothy D. Glover, 37, was convicted of Class A misdemeanor theft by the 185<sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County. Glover was sentenced to five days in jail and was ordered to pay a \$300 fine.
- Anthony B. Guffey, 35, received two years deferred adjudication probation from the 434<sup>th</sup> District Court, Fort Bend County, on the charge of state jail felony theft. Guffey paid full restitution of \$3,844 before sentencing, and was ordered to pay \$261 in court costs and to perform 90 hours of community service.
- Sammie J. Hines IV, 33, received five years deferred adjudication probation from the 338<sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County, on the charge of state jail felony theft. Hines was ordered to pay \$8,250 restitution and a \$703 fine, and to perform 200 hours of community service.
- Renee House, 46, received four years deferred adjudication probation from the 230<sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County, on the charge of state jail felony theft. House was ordered to write a letter of apology to TWC, and to pay \$11,000 restitution and a \$500 fine.
- Henry W. Hunter, 45, received three years deferred adjudication probation from the 248<sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County, on the charge of state jail felony theft. Hunter was ordered to pay \$7,424 restitution and \$203 in court costs.

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**Fraud**

- Kenneth Lee Raglin, 44, received two years deferred adjudication probation from the 268<sup>th</sup> District Court, Fort Bend County, on the charge of Class A misdemeanor theft. Raglin was ordered to pay \$5,576 restitution and to perform 40 hours of community service.
- Kathy A. Smith, 40, received four years deferred adjudication probation from the 262<sup>nd</sup> District Court, Harris County, on the charge of state jail felony theft. Smith was ordered to pay \$5,658 restitution and \$203 in court costs, and to perform 200 hours of community service.
- Richard A. Urrea, 44, was convicted of state jail felony theft by the 23<sup>rd</sup> District Court, Brazoria County, and was sentenced to four years regular probation. Urrea was ordered to pay \$12,976 restitution and \$268 in court costs, and to perform 160 hours of community service.
- Alphonso A. Whitaker, 38, received five years deferred adjudication probation from the 177<sup>th</sup> District Court, Harris County, on the charge of state jail felony theft. Whitaker was ordered to pay \$8,570 restitution and \$203 in court costs, and to perform 180 hours of community service.

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](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*