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## **Colonie Woman Guilty of Welfare Fraud Surrenders to Prison**



**ALBANY, NY** – District Attorney P. David Soares today announced that ANGELA LOPEZ, 37, of Vanessa Court in Colonie, NY has surrendered herself to serve her sentence of 2 to 6 years in state prison and pay approximately \$100,000 in restitution and fines.

Between May 2005 and April 2009 LOPEZ applied for and received Medicaid assistance and food stamps from Albany County Department of Social Services, but failed to report under-the-table income she received during the period of the fraud. This resulted in a total overpayment of Albany County benefits to her of \$65,699. LOPEZ also defrauded the Social Security Administration out of approximately \$29,697.88, by intentionally withholding her under-the-table income and intentionally failing to report property owned by her family on applications and certifications for Social Security Insurance benefits.

On May 11, 2011 LOPEZ pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Welfare Fraud in the Second Degree, a Class "C" Felony and (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class "D" Felony before the Honorable Dan Lamont in Albany County Court.

In August of 2011, LOPEZ was sentenced to 2 to 6 years in state prison and payment of \$65,699 in restitution to the Department of Social Services and \$29,697.88 in restitution to the Social Security Administration.

LOPEZ appealed her case in the New York State Supreme Court Appellate Division, arguing that her sentence was harsh and excessive. On July 5, 2012 the Appellate Division upheld her conviction and sentence. Please refer to the decision [here](#).

"Ms. Lopez took advantage of our entitlement programs, stealing from the families that truly need assistance and the tax payers of Albany County," said DA David Soares. "I will continue to aggressively prosecute individuals that defraud government programs - as well as continue to ask our state leaders to increase the penalties for theft of services so those taking advantage of our workforce and government resources can face the same penalties as Ms. Lopez is facing today."

Assistant District Attorney Ben Clark of the Financial Crimes Unit handled the prosecution of this case. The Appeal was argued by Steven Sharp of the Legal Affairs Unit.

For more information, please contact Cecilia Logue.

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