



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

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For Immediate Release

December 11, 2013

Orangeburg County Man Pleads Guilty to Felony Unemployment Insurance Fraud

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson and the SC Department of Employment and Workforce (DEW) announced that an Orangeburg County man entered a guilty plea to felony unemployment insurance fraud this week.

Demetrius Porter, 29, pleaded guilty to one count of making a false statement or misrepresentation with the intent to defraud DEW, a misdemeanor punishable by up to five years in prison.

Between January 2009 and June 2011, Porter received unemployment benefits based on his weekly certifications that he was totally unemployed and earning no wages. However, an investigation by DEW found he had been gainfully employed during these weeks and intentionally falsified information about his employment and weekly wage earnings in an effort to defraud the state.

Porter was sentenced to five years in prison which was suspended to time served. He was placed on probation for five years. While on probation, Porter must repay DEW more than \$17,000 in restitution. In addition, he was ordered to pay a \$1,500 civil penalty to the state.

The case was investigated by DEW and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Office.

To report suspected unemployment insurance fraud, call 1.800.868.1488. Callers can remain anonymous. To learn tips on how to help prevent unemployment fraud, visit dew.sc.gov/fraud.

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