



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

February 26, 2010

**CERTIFIED MAIL R. R.**

Kwantrice M. Thornton

7009 0820 0002 0033 4918

Re: Docket No. 09-48-DA

**NOTICE OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE DEBARMENT FROM FEDERAL  
PROCUREMENT AND NON-PROCUREMENT TRANSACTIONS**

This notice is issued by the United States Department of Education (Department) pursuant to 34 C.F.R. § 85.870 to inform you that you are **DEBARRED EFFECTIVE THE DATE OF THIS LETTER** from participating in any covered transactions under federal procurement and non-procurement programs and activities of any federal agency. As a consequence of being debarred, you are not eligible to receive federal financial and non-financial assistance or benefits from any federal agency under procurement or non-procurement programs and activities. Also, you may not act as a principal on behalf of any person in connection with a covered transaction. A principal is defined in 34 C.F.R. § 85.995 and includes any key employee or other person who has a critical influence on or substantive control over a covered transaction. This debarment is effective for all covered transactions unless an agency head or authorized designee grants an exception for a particular transaction in accordance with 34 C.F.R. § 85.120.

On September 25, 2009, the Department issued to you a Notice of Proposed Government-Wide Debarment from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Transactions, and informed you of your right to submit information and argument in opposition to such an action. That Notice was mailed to you at your last known address of record via U.S.P.S., Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. That Notice was mailed to you at your last known address of record via U.S.P.S., Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested. You received the Notice on October 1, 2009.

Under the applicable regulations, one subject to a proposed debarment is given 30 days from receipt of the Notice to oppose the proposed action. Thirty days have passed from the date of notice, and this office has received no correspondence from you contesting the contents of the September 25, 2009, Notice. The matter is now considered timely.

Beginning February 2006 through January 2007, you and another individual aided and assisted in the preparation and presentation of fraudulent federal income tax returns. These particular federal income tax returns claimed false refunds in the approximate

amounts of \$6,000 to \$9,000, which were directly deposited into bank accounts under your control. In order to accomplish this conspiracy, you stole social security numbers and dates of birth from Medicaid beneficiaries. In addition, from July 2006 and January 2007, you gathered information defined as “identifiers” from your employer, and subsequently sold this “identifier” information to your co-conspirator.

In 2008, you were charged in a single count Information with conspiracy to defraud the United States in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. On February 4, 2008, you entered into a plea agreement in which you agreed to plead guilty to the single count Information. On July 22, 2009 you plead guilty to defrauding the United States in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. The court accepted your plea of guilty and found you guilty of violating 18 U.S.C. § 371 and sentenced you for your crime.

Based upon your plea and your conviction, **I FIND** that debarment is warranted. The uncontested record and the Notice of Proposed Government-Wide Debarment from Federal Non-Procurement Transactions, dated September 25, 2009, demonstrate that debarment should be imposed inasmuch as these violations constitute serious charges and cause for debarment under 34 C.F.R. §§ 85.800 (a)(3).

Under 34.C.F.R. § 85.865, the period of debarment is to be commensurate with the seriousness of the cause(s) for debarment. The charges levied against you in the Notice of Proposed Government-Wide Debarment from Federal Non-Procurement Transactions dated September 25, 2009, and which have gone without comment, constitute a serious threat to governmental programs. Accordingly, I have determined that the period of debarment will be **three** years, effective the date of this letter. The regulations contained in 34 C.F.R. Part 85, and the Non-Procurement Debarment and Suspension Procedures mailed with the Notice of September 25, 2009, govern this debarment.

**SO ORDERED,**

Frank J. Furey,  
Deciding Debarment

and Suspension Official