



NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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10-030

**KOKHANOK WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY AND SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS PROBATION
FOR THEFT OF PUBLIC MONEY FROM UNITED STATES POST OFFICE**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Karen L. Loeffler announced that on April 29, 2010, Janessa M. Woods, of Kokhanok, Alaska, pled guilty and was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to theft of public money.

Woods, age 22, pled guilty and was sentenced to probation on the one-count information before Chief United States District Court Judge Judge Ralph R. Beistline.

According to court documents presented by Assistant United States Attorney Jack S. Schmidt, who prosecuted the case, Woods was the Contract Postmaster in Kokhanok, Alaska from June 2007 to November 2007, when she stole \$6,853.83 in Cash-on-Delivery (COD) funds collected from Koknanok residents to pay outside vendors for items shipped to the village. After discovering the theft, the United States Post Office paid the outside vendors the COD funds for the items shipped to their customers in Kokhanok.

Judge Beistline sentenced Woods to five years of probation and to pay full restitution.

The United States Postal Service-Office of the Inspector General in Anchorage conducted the investigation leading to the conviction in this case.

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