

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney District of Idaho

THOMAS E. MOSS, United States Attorney MARC HAWS, First Assistant United States Attorney RAFAEL M. GONZALEZ, Criminal Chief NICHOLAS J. WOYCHICK, Civil Chief Washington Group Plaza IV 800 Park Blvd., Suite 600 Boise ID 83712 (208) 334-1211

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON JANUARY 31, 2006

CONTACT: JEAN McNEIL

Public Information Officer GEORGE BREITSAMETER Assistant United States Attorney

(208) 334-1211

POST FALLS MAN ADMITS STEALING FROM EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN

The former President and CEO of a Post Falls group home operator has admitted misappropriating more than \$46,000 from an employee pension plan, U.S. Attorney Tom Moss announced today.

James C. Stone entered a guilty plea to one count of making a false statement to the pension plan's auditor in U.S. District Court in Coeur d'Alene yesterday. Stone helped found the now-defunct Alpha Health Services, Inc., in 1987 to provide group and nursing home services to developmentally and physically disabled adults in north Idaho.

In addition to being the company President, Stone served as the trustee for the Alpha Health Services, Inc., Employee Stock Ownership Plan. In his plea agreement, Stone acknowledged transferring \$46,200 of the pension plan's funds to an account in Singapore, and then falsifying a receipt to make it appear that the funds had been invested on behalf of the pension plan.

"Stealing from a pension plan is tantamount to raiding the employees' wallets," Moss said. He praised the investigation, conducted by the Seattle offices of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration and the Office of the Inspector General.

Sentencing is set for 4 p.m. March 27. Stone faces a maximum of five years in prison.
