

**United States Court of Appeals
FOR THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT**

No. 00-2087

United States of America,

Appellee,

v.

Candace K. Wood,

Appellant.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Appeal from the United States
District Court for the
Western District of Arkansas.

[UNPUBLISHED]

Submitted: May 7, 2001

Filed: May 8, 2001

Before BOWMAN, BEAM, and LOKEN, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM.

Candace K. Wood embezzled money from her former employer by preparing and submitting fraudulent contractor-reimbursement claims for payment. She was the sole supervisor over the employees responsible for assessing and preparing the claims. She later pleaded guilty to five counts of mail fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341-1342 (1994), and one count of money-laundering, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1957 (1994). At sentencing, over Wood's objection, the District Court¹ imposed an abuse-of-trust

¹The Honorable Robert T. Dawson, United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

enhancement under U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Manual § 3B1.3 (2000), and sentenced Wood to serve concurrent terms of forty-one months imprisonment and three years supervised release on each count, and to pay restitution. On appeal Wood challenges the abuse-of-trust enhancement, arguing that her supervisors placed unwarranted trust in her.

Having carefully reviewed the record, see United States v. Baker, 200 F.3d 558, 563 (8th Cir. 2000) (standard of review), we conclude the District Court did not erroneously apply the enhancement; Wood held a position of private trust which she used to both facilitate and conceal the fraudulent claims. See U.S.S.G. § 3B1.3; United States v. Gjerde, 110 F.3d 595, 605 (8th Cir.), cert. denied, 522 U.S. 949 (1997); United States v. Brelsford, 982 F.2d 269, 272 (8th Cir. 1992).

Accordingly, we affirm.

A true copy.

Attest:

CLERK, U.S. COURT OF APPEALS, EIGHTH CIRCUIT.