



News Release

SOCIAL SECURITY

50,779
J
1 p.
1017228

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 11, 1996

Social Security Administration
Contact: Phil Gambino
(202) 482-7145

STATEMENT OF SHIRLEY S. CHATER
COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY (AWARDING BENEFITS)

REGARDING THE STATUS OF THE JUDITH HART COURT CASE

This case raises significant policy issues that were not contemplated when the Social Security Act was passed many years ago. Recent advances in modern medical practice, particularly in the field of reproductive medicine, necessitate a careful review of current laws and regulations to ensure they are equitable in awarding Social Security payments in cases such as this.

This review has begun. Resolving these significant policy issues should involve the executive and legislative branches, rather than the courts.

In the interim, after consulting with the Department of Justice, we believe it would be inappropriate to deny benefit payments to Judith Hart at this time. As a mother two times, I admire the deep feelings of love that brought Judith Hart into this world and I applaud the miracles of modern medicine that resulted in her birth.

Therefore, I have asked the Court to return the case to Social Security at which point I will order the immediate payment of benefits to Judith Hart.