

'Disabled' benefits cheat filmed fighting police

By Daily Telegraph Reporter

A BENEFIT cheat who claimed he could not leave home without a walking stick was caught when he was filmed on CCTV fighting with police officers.

Timothy Harris, 46, from Northampton, told officials he could not walk without a stick after a wall fell on him, but was captured on CCTV in the early hours of New Year's Day 2008 behaving violently and scuffling with police in Northampton town centre.

Northampton Crown Court heard yesterday that, after he was prosecuted for affray, the Department for Work and Pensions opened an investigation into his

disability claim, which found that, between January 2006 and November 2010, he had fraudulently claimed income support, housing benefit and council tax benefit. He had failed to declare a change in his circumstances, and had also claimed disability living allowance, despite the CCTV footage of the January 2008 incident showing him fighting and running.

Harris's fraudulent claims amounted to £21,438.66. He was jailed for 15 months after pleading guilty to failing to notify a change in his circumstances. He already had a suspended sentence for the New Year's Day affray, as well as a separate conviction for possession of cocaine.