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ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO ANNOUNCES HEALTHCARE WORKER SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

LAS VEGAS, NV – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today Beulah Upshaw, age 35, was sentenced for Medicaid Fraud. Upshaw pled guilty to Failure to Maintain Adequate Records, a gross misdemeanor offense.

In 2007, information was obtained that personal care aid services were not being provided to a Medicaid recipient. Medicaid has a personal care aid program to keep people living independently in their own homes by providing basic services, including bathing dressing, cleaning and meal preparation. Medicaid contracts with home care companies that in turn employ individuals to provide the actual day-to-day care. An investigation found that Upshaw was not at patients' homes for the time period she claimed to be providing services.

District Court Judge Elissa Cadish sentenced Upshaw to 60 days in jail, suspended; payment of \$4,400 in restitution, penalties and costs; and three years probation.

"The continued prosecution of this type of crime is sending a message to the health care community that fraudulent activities involving Medicaid recipients will not go unpunished," said General Masto.

The Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of elder abuse or neglect. The unit also investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing health care services or goods to Medicaid patients. Anyone wishing to report suspicions regarding any of these concerns may contact the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in Carson City 775.684.1191 or in Las Vegas 702.486.3187. Medicaid fraud information can also be found on the Attorney General's web site: <http://ag.state.nv.us>.