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HEALTHCARE WORKER SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

Las Vegas – Healthcare worker Margaret Childs, age 58, was sentenced today for Medicaid Fraud. Childs pled guilty to a gross misdemeanor offense: Failure to Maintain Adequate Records.

District Court Judge Kenneth Cory sentenced Childs to 60 days in jail, suspended, 120 hours of community service, payment of \$15,300.00 in restitution, penalties, and costs, plus 5 years probation. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

"The continued prosecution of these types of cases is sending a message to the health care community that fraudulent activities involving Medicaid recipients will not go unpunished," said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. "Prosecution of these types of cases gets money back into the Medicaid system for recipients that do need services."

The investigation began in 2008 after 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, house cleaning and meal preparation. Medicaid contracts with home care companies that in turn employ individuals to provide the actual day-to-day care. The investigation developed information that Childs was not at a patient's home for the time periods she claimed to be providing services.

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 healthcare 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>