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RESIDENTIAL FACILITY CAREGIVER SENTENCED

Las Vegas, NV – Today, Lilia A. Serrano was sentenced for Neglect of Duty in Willful or Wanton Disregard of Safety of Person or Property. The Neglect of Duty violation is a gross misdemeanor offense.

Ms. Serrano, age 50, was a caregiver at a residential facility group home housing elderly and disabled persons. Judge Melisa De La Garza sentenced Ms. Serrano to 30 days in jail, suspended. Ms. Serrano was also sentenced to one year probation with conditions that she perform 20 hours of community service and pay a \$250.00 fine. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

"We have an obligation to ensure that our older and less able citizens are receiving proper care and attention," said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. "Prosecuting these cases promotes safe and secure living environments for our citizens who depend on the care of others."

Ms. Serrano was the caregiver on duty at Angels Care Group Home on September 9, 2009, when one of the residents called 911 to report a medical emergency. Upon arriving at the facility, emergency responders found the medical emergency report was unfounded. However, the emergency responders discovered that no caregiver was present at the facility. Ms. Serrano arrived shortly thereafter, having been absent from the facility for three to four hours. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Abuse/Neglect personnel referred the matter to the Aging and Disability Services Division of the Department of Health and Human Services who then referred the matter to the Attorney General's Office, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

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 who has information regarding this case or wishing to