



## OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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### **HEALTHCARE WORKER SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD**

**Las Vegas** – Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Vanessa Ortiz, age 26, was sentenced for Medicaid Fraud. Ortiz pled guilty to a gross misdemeanor offense: Failure to Maintain Adequate Records. District Court Judge Elissa Cadish sentenced her to 90 days in jail, suspended, 60 hours of community service, payment of \$2,530.00 in restitution, penalties, and costs, plus 3 years probation. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).

Attorney General Cortez Masto said “Punishment of this type of crime helps to ensure that Medicaid patients are receiving needed services as well as sending a message that fraud against the Medicaid system will not be tolerated,” said Attorney General Masto.

The investigation began in 2008 after information was obtained that personal care aid services were not being provided to Medicaid recipients. 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. The investigation developed information that Ortiz was not at patients’ homes for the time periods she claimed to be providing services.

The Nevada Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing healthcare services or goods to Medicaid patients. The unit also investigates and prosecutes instances of elder abuse or neglect. 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>