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HEALTHCARE WORKER ANGELIA CHUPA SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

Las Vegas –Las Vegan Angelia Chupa, age 50, was sentenced today for two misdemeanor offenses of Submission of False Claims. Justice of the Peace William Jansen sentenced her to 90 days in jail, suspended, payment of \$7,100 in restitution, penalties, and costs, and one year probation in this Medicaid fraud case. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

“Fraud against Medicaid by providers in the health care community will be investigated and punished,” said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. “Prosecution of these crimes and the restitution penalties returning funds to Medicaid helps ensure continued support of those in need of services.”

The investigation began in 2008 after information was obtained that Chupa was not providing personal care assistant services to a Medicaid recipient and was receiving payment for those purported services. Medicaid has a personal care assistant 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 Chupa indeed failed to provide care services for the patient for whom she was employed, yet claimed that she performed the services and received payment as if she had actually performed the 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>