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Attorney General Ford Announces Sentencing of Behavioral Health Provider and its Owner for Medicaid Fraud

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Aaron D. Ford announced that Milena Menzui Hernandez, 45, of North Las Vegas, and her company, Milena Hernandez Therapy, LLC, were sentenced today in a Medicaid fraud case involving identity theft, submission of false claims, and failure to maintain adequate records committed between January 1, 2018, and February 12, 2020.

The Honorable Monica Trujillo adjudicated Milena Hernandez Therapy, LLC, guilty of one count of Obtaining and Using Personal Identifying Information of Five or More Persons, a category B felony, and one count of Submitting False Claims: Medicaid Fraud, a category D felony. The defendant was sentenced to 12-30 months as to count one and 36-96 months as to count two. The sentence was suspended, and the defendant was placed on probation for 36 months. The defendant was also ordered to pay more than \$350,000 in restitution. Hernandez was found guilty of Intentional Failure to Maintain Records and was sentenced to 364 days in the Clark County Detention Center, suspended, placed on probation, and ordered to pay an additional \$100,000, which were due by the date of sentencing.

"Medicaid is designed to be a safeguard used by those in need of its service, not by fraudulent providers seeking to benefit themselves financially," **said AG Ford**. "My office remains vigilant in its efforts to investigate and prosecute those who take advantage of such taxpayer-funded systems like Medicaid."

The investigation of this case began after the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) received information from Nevada Medicaid's Surveillance and Utilization Review (SUR) Unit that Milena Hernandez Therapy was billing as though its service providers were rendering more than 24 hours of service per day. Milena Hernandez Therapy also submitted documentation

indicating services were provided by individuals who were not enrolled with Nevada Medicaid or authorized to render services to Medicaid recipients.

The MFCU investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing healthcare services or goods to Medicaid patients. The MFCU also investigates and prosecutes instances of elder abuse or neglect. The Nevada MFCU receives 75% of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award. The remaining 25% is funded by the State of Nevada, MFCU. Anyone wishing to report suspicions regarding any of these concerns may contact the MFCU at 702-486-3420 or 775-684-1100.

This case was investigated by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and was prosecuted by Senior Deputy Attorney General Behnaz Salimian Molina.

To file a complaint with the Office of the Nevada Attorney General, click here.

Criminal Information involving <u>identity theft</u>, <u>submission of false claims</u> and <u>failure to maintain</u> <u>adequate records</u>.