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ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO ANNOUNCES SENTENCING IN LAS VEGAS PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT FRAUD CASE

For Defendant's Claims to be True, Patients Would Have Been in Two Places Simultaneously

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced that Aurora Volero-Alvarez, 61, of Las Vegas, was sentenced yesterday in a Medicaid fraud case involving false reporting of personal care services.

"An anonymous tip led to this successful investigation and prosecution," said Masto. "Our thanks go out to that person. A whistleblower sent us a letter informing my office that Volero-Alvarez had claimed she had provided services to clients who were not actually present to receive services. Tips like this one help our office ensure the integrity of Medicaid and help us return money for use by Nevadans in need."

The investigation proved her patients were at other care facilities when Volero-Alvarez was claiming to have provided home bound services. Volero-Alvarez provided this false information to her employer and received payment as if she had actually performed the services. The fraud occurred from about December 2009 to February 2011.

Volero-Alvarez pled guilty to a misdemeanor offense of submission of false medicaid claims. Justice of the Peace Melanie Andress-Tobiasson sentenced her to 90 days jail, suspended; 40 hours of community service; a "stay out of trouble" provision; and ordered her to repay \$18,450 in restitution, penalties. Persons convicted of Medicaid fraud may also be administratively excluded from future Medicaid participation.

The Medicaid PCA program enables people to live independently in their own homes by providing personal assistance with 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 case was investigated and prosecuted by the MFCU, which 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. Anyone wishing to report suspicions regarding any of these concerns may contact the MFCU at 775-684-1191 or 702-486-3187.

The case was prosecuted by Mark Kemberling, Chief Deputy Attorney General of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Read the criminal complaint by visiting: <http://bit.ly/VoleroComplaint>

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