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NEVADA ATTORNEY GENERAL MASTO ANNOUNCES LAS VEGAS PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT SENTENCED FOR FALSE REPORTING OF MEDICAID SERVICES

Las Vegas, NV – Nevada Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto announced today that Osbel Rodriguez, 40, of Las Vegas, was sentenced for falsely reporting personal care services.

Rodriguez provided services as a Personal Care Assistant (PCA) through four agencies, including Addus Healthcare, Alternate Home Series, New Sunset Personal Care, and Las Vegas Healthcare, that contract with Medicaid to provide personal care services to people in their homes.

Rodriguez, who was sentenced today by Clark County District Court Judge Lee Gates, pled guilty to a gross misdemeanor offense of intentional failure to maintain adequate record. Gates ordered Rodriguez to 180 days jail, suspended, and ordered to repay \$11,794 in restitution, penalties and costs in the Medicaid fraud case.

“Fraud against Medicaid by providers of health care services will be aggressively investigated and punished,” said Masto. “Prosecution of these crimes ensures the integrity of Medicaid and returns money for use by those in actual need of services.”

In November, 2009, the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) received information that Rodriguez had claimed he provided services to clients who were not actually receiving all of the claimed services.

Further investigation by the MFCU revealed that Rodriguez was concurrently employed as a PCA by four PCA agencies and claimed to have simultaneously provided services to multiple clients in different locations. Rodriguez provided this information to the agencies for which he worked and received payment as if he had performed the services.

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.

Persons convicted of Medicaid fraud may also be administratively excluded from future Medicaid participation.

The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU), which investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing healthcare services or goods to Medicaid patients. 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.

The case was prosecuted by Matthew Jensen, Senior Deputy Attorney General.

Read the criminal information by visiting: <http://bit.ly/ORodriguez>.



RODRIGUEZ, OSBEL

(Photo courtesy of Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department)

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