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HEALTHCARE RECIPIENT PHILLIP HARRIS SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

Reno, NV – The Office of the Nevada Attorney General has announced that Phillip Harris, age 71, was sentenced for Medicaid fraud. Harris plead guilty to a misdemeanor offense of Submission of False Medicaid Claims. Justice of the Peace Peter Sferrazza found Mr. Harris guilty and sentenced him to payment of \$250.00 in restitution, fees and costs. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).

In 2010 Nevada Medicaid provided information to the MFCU that Mr. Harris' Medicaid-funded personal care assistant, Youngsook Kwon, was not providing care services to Mr. Harris, but was receiving payment for those purported services. Medicaid has a personal care assistant program to help people live independently in their own homes by providing assistance with basic personal care services. The investigation revealed that Kwon failed to provide care services for Mr. Harris and received payment as if she had actually performed the services. In addition, the investigation found that Harris had participated with Kwon in this fraud, asserting that Kwon had provided the services and signing verifications. Investigation revealed that Harris was travelling out of state on the dates in question. Kwon was previously sentenced for her part in the crime.

"Medicaid fraud takes dollars used to treat those in need," said Attorney General Cortez Masto. "We will continue to prosecute these crimes and send a message to all of those in the Medicaid program, providers and recipients alike, that Medicaid fraud will not be tolerated."

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>