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HEALTHCARE WORKER ROTASHA BATES SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

Las Vegas, NV – The Office of the Nevada Attorney General reports that Rotasha Bates, of Las Vegas, has been sentenced for Medicaid fraud. Bates, 27, pled guilty to a gross misdemeanor offense of Intentional Failure to Maintain Adequate Records. Bates was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended, 3 years of probation, performance of 20 hours of community service and payment of $1,249.25 in restitution, penalties, and costs. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU).

In September 2010, Nevada Medicaid provided information to the MFCU that Bates was suspected of not providing personal care services to a Medicaid recipient for which she had received payment from Medicaid. Medicaid has a personal care assistant program to keep people living independently in their own homes by providing basic services, including bathing, dressing, cleaning and meal preparation. Bates was employed by a home care company to provide the actual day-to-day care for a Medicaid recipient. It was discovered that Bates failed to provide services for the patient for whom she was employed, yet claimed she performed the services and received payment as if she had actually performed the services.

"Medicaid fraud cases represent a theft from taxpayer money and our neediest citizens," said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto, "Each case must be pursued in order to return that money to the Medicaid system and to the recipients who have an actual need for services. The Medicaid system must be protected and my office will continue to do all it can to do so. Medicaid fraud will be punished."

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

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**

Rotasha Bates

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