OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Catherine Cortez Masto, *Attorney General*

555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone - (702) 486-3420
Fax - (702) 486-3283
Web - http://ag.state.nv.us

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Edie Cartwright
775.684.1189

HEALTHCARE WORKER YOLANDA HOSKINS SENTENCED FOR MEDICAID FRAUD

Las Vegas – Las Vegan Yolanda Hoskins, age 44, was sentenced for the gross misdemeanor offense of Intentional Failure to Maintain Adequate Records. Judge Melisa De La Garza sentenced her to 90 days in jail, suspended, payment of $5,470.00 in restitution, penalties, and costs, 80 hours of community service, and 3 years probation in this Medicaid fraud case. The case was investigated and prosecuted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

"Medicaid fraud of any amount must not be tolerated and continuing prosecution of these crimes sends a message to those in the health care community that fraud involving Medicaid and its recipients will not go unpunished," said Attorney General Masto. "Prosecution of these crimes ensures the integrity of Medicaid and restitution payments returns money to the program for use by those in need of services."

The investigation began in 2009 after information was obtained that Hoskins was not providing personal care aid services to a Medicaid recipient and was receiving payment for those services. Medicaid has a personal care aid program to keep people living independently in their own homes by providing basic services, including bathing, dressing, house cleaning and meal preparation. Medicaid contracts with home care companies that in turn employ individuals to provide the actual day-to-day care. The investigation developed information that Hoskins indeed failed to provide care services for the patient for whom she was employed, yet claimed that she performed the services and received payment as if she had actually performed the services.

The Nevada Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes instances of elder abuse or neglect. The unit also investigates and prosecutes financial fraud by those providing healthcare services or goods to Medicaid patients. 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**