

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information, contact:

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491
Suzanne Webb (334) 242-7351

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AG ANNOUNCES CONVICTION OF CLARKE COUNTY DENTIST FOR ATTEMPTING TO DEFRAUD ALABAMA MEDICAID AGENCY

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced that a Clarke County dentist today pleaded guilty to attempting to file a claim for payment with the Alabama Medicaid Agency for a dental procedure that was not performed. Victor Clarence Hawkins, 61, of Grove Hill, pleaded guilty this afternoon before Montgomery County District Judge Jimmy Pool to one count of attempting to file a false claim with the Medicaid Agency, a Class A misdemeanor.

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit had accused Hawkins of billing the Medicaid Agency for a dental procedure referred to as a pulpectomy, or partial root canal, for a pediatric dental procedure in June of 2011. A review of a post procedure x-ray revealed that the procedure had not been performed.

Judge Pool sentenced Hawkins to 12 months in the Montgomery County Jail, which was suspended, and placed Hawkins on 12 months of probation. As a part of the plea, Hawkins was permanently barred from participation as an Alabama Medicaid provider. No restitution was due the Medicaid Agency.

The investigation was initiated by the Program Integrity Division of the Medicaid Agency and referred to the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, where it was prosecuted by the Unit's Director, Assistant Attorney General Bruce Lieberman.

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