



**AG ANNOUNCES CONVICTION OF FORMER CONECUH COUNTY
NURSING HOME BOOKEEPER FOR THEFT OF RESIDENTS' FUNDS**

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced the conviction today of Mary K. Nowell for the theft of patient funds from Evergreen Nursing Home and Rehabilitation in Conecuh County.

Nowell, 49 and currently a resident of Bon Secour, Alabama, had been employed as a bookkeeper at the facility from November 2008 until February 2013. Crowne Management, the owner of the facility, conducted an internal audit of the facility's patient trust fund after discrepancies were noted in the residents' accounts. The audit found evidence that Nowell had embezzled more than \$4,000 by manipulating the computer-based accounting records. Crowne immediately reported its findings to the Attorney General's Office.

Nowell pleaded guilty before Conecuh County District Judge Jeffrey Brock to first-degree theft of property, a class B felony, after having been indicted on the same charge by the March 2014 term of the Conecuh County grand jury. Nowell was sentenced to 14 months imprisonment, which was suspended, and she was placed on 14 months supervised probation. She also was ordered to pay \$4,280 in restitution to Crowne management and a \$500 fine.

The case was investigated by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and was prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Jon Moody.

"We are grateful for the diligence of the facility's management in discovering this theft and taking prompt action to bring the defendant to justice," said Attorney General Strange. "Today's conviction should serve as a message that preying upon vulnerable nursing home residents will not be tolerated."

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