



## **AG STRANGE ANNOUNCES CONVICTION FOR MEDICAID FRAUD, IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME**

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced that Darnell Davon Nash, 30, of Cleveland, Ohio, pleaded guilty yesterday in Montgomery County Circuit Court to defrauding the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

Nash was indicted for his role in the filing of numerous false claims for payment to the Alabama Medicaid Agency, and being in possession of identifying information of approximately 25 Alabama residents.

Prosecutors describe how Nash, along with a co-defendant, established a fake business named "Chase Farms Group" and fraudulently obtained status as an Alabama Medicaid provider. The two then obtained, by deceit, the Medicaid Provider ID of a north Alabama physician's office, by stating they ran a crisis center and wanted the physician's office to be their medical provider. People in the physician's office became suspicious when they attempted to contact Nash, who had used an alias, to inquire about the partnership. The scheme also involved the distribution of flyers throughout the Birmingham area, advertising assistance with obtaining government subsidies. Then victims called the number provided and gave their identifying information. Nash and his co-defendant would then bill Medicaid for alleged services provided by the physician's office using the stolen data. No information may be released at this time regarding the co-defendant.

Nash pleaded guilty to one count of Medicaid fraud, an unclassified felony, and was sentenced to four years of incarceration. This sentence will run concurrently with a federal 15-year sentence for unrelated crimes. Nash will be turned over to the United States Marshals Service, which will transport him to a facility determined by the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

"This defendant conducted a shameless scheme of deception and theft, stealing the identities of innocent victims who were seeking help, and depriving the State of badly-needed funds to serve some of our more needy citizens. I am pleased that he has been stopped and is being punished for his crimes."

Attorney General Strange commended his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for its steadfast investigation of this case. He also thanked the Birmingham office of the United States Secret Service, the United States Marshals Service, the Ohio Office of the United States Department of Labor and the Ohio Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, for their valuable assistance.

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