

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES CONVICTION OF FORMER EMPLOYEE FOR SLAPPING RESIDENT AT MOBILE NURSING HOME

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced the conviction today of a former nursing home employee for abuse of a protected person, a Class C felony. Elsie M. Sawyer, 31, pleaded guilty in Mobile County Circuit Court and was sentenced to three years, which was suspended, placed on three years of probation and ordered to complete an anger management class. In addition, she is barred from working in a care facility that receives Medicaid or public health funding.

The case was prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Evidence was presented to a Mobile County grand jury resulting in Sawyer’s indictment on December 17, 2014. This morning, she pleaded guilty as charged. When Sawyer was employed as a certified nursing assistant at Crowne Health Care of Mobile, she was observed striking a resident and causing injury to the face and nose.

“Those who work in nursing homes hold a serious position of trust that they will care for those who are vulnerable and in need of protection,” said Attorney General Strange. “For someone to instead abuse those who are helpless will not be tolerated. I am pleased that this defendant has been held to account for her crime and that she will be barred from a position to abuse anyone else.”

Attorney General Strange commended Assistant Attorneys General Bruce Lieberman and Jon Moody of his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. He thanked the Alabama Department of Public Health for referring the matter to his office, and Crowne Health Care for its cooperation and assistance with the investigation.

The Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit prosecutes cases of abuse, neglect and exploitation covered by the Adult Protective Services Act that occur in facilities that receive Medicaid funding, as well as handling cases of Medicaid fraud.

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