



**AG ANNOUNCES ARREST OF A LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE
FOR INTENTIONAL NEGLIGENCE OF AN ELDERLY PERSON**

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest of a former employee of a Chilton County nursing home for abuse and/or neglect of a resident of the facility. Katherine Blevins Lenoir, 53, of Maplesville was arrested this afternoon and released on a \$15,000 bond.

The Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit presented evidence to a Chilton County grand jury resulting in an indictment* dated August 5 charging Lenoir with one count of elder abuse in the first degree. Lenoir is a former employee of Don Hatley Healthcare and Rehabilitation. It is alleged that Lenoir, who is a licensed practical nurse, inadvertently administered a large dose of a narcotic pain medication to a patient instead of the requested cough medicine. Lenoir, however, instead of alerting the facility to her mistake, manipulated treatment records to reflect that she had given the correct medication. The patient, suffering from an overdose of the narcotic pain medication, was discovered by a nurse on a later shift and rushed to the hospital where she spent several days in the intensive care unit before being released. Had Lenoir reported her mistake immediately, the patient would not have suffered nearly the prolonged effects of the narcotic. However, due to her intentional neglect the patient almost died.

Elder abuse and neglect in the first degree (Ala. Code 1975 §13A-6-192) provides that any person who intentionally abuses or neglects any elderly person is guilty of a Class A felony if the intentional abuse or neglect causes serious physical injury. One of the legal definitions of “serious physical injury,” is a physical injury which creates a substantial risk of death. A class A felony carries a possible sentence of 10 years to life in the Alabama Department of Corrections.

Attorney General Strange commended his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for their investigation of the case.

**An indictment is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*

