

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2015

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AG ANNOUNCES ARREST OF BIRMINGHAM WOMAN FOR INVOLVEMENT IN SCHEME TO STEAL NURSING HOME PATIENT TRUST FUND MONIES

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest of Kimberly Marie Farris, 33, of Birmingham, for her involvement in a scheme to steal patient trust fund monies at East Glen Nursing Home. Farris was arrested on September 10. She is alleged to have been an accomplice of Gwendolyn Lacy, who pleaded guilty to theft of property in the first degree and computer tampering on August 31.

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit presented evidence to a Jefferson County grand jury resulting in an indictment* dated March 6 charging Farris with one count of theft of property in the second degree. While acting as business office manager for East Glen Nursing Home, alleged accomplice Lacy manipulated the electronic files of three residents and then wrote a total of nine checks from the facility's patient trust fund referencing these accounts. It is alleged Farris received four of these checks and cashed them for a total of \$950. It is further alleged Farris recruited other associates to participate in the scheme.

Along with Farris, four other individuals were charged and have been arrested. Clarence Dates and Gwendolyn Lacy have both pleaded guilty to their roles in the scheme. Wanda Carpenter and Cynthia Clarke are scheduled for court appearances in October.

Attorney General Strange praised the administration of the East Glen Nursing Home and its parent company, Noland Health Services, for immediate and diligent reporting of the allegation, as well as assistance in the investigation and prosecution by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Theft of property in the second degree is a class C felony, which carries a possible prison sentence of a year and a day to 10 years in the Department of Corrections.

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

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