

February 28, 2017

Steven T. Marshall  
Alabama Attorney General



For More Information, contact:

Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

Page 1 of 1

**AG STEVEN T. MARSHALL ANNOUNCES ARREST OF A TAMPA MAN FOR ELDER EXPLOITATION OF RESIDENT IN IRONDALE ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY**

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Steven T. Marshall announced the arrest yesterday of Mitchell Alton Roddam, 60, of Tampa, Florida, for elder exploitation of his aunt, who is living in an Irondale assisted living facility. Roddam surrendered at the Jefferson County Correctional facility.

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit presented evidence to a Jefferson County grand jury resulting in an indictment\* dated February 9 charging Roddam with first-degree financial exploitation of an elderly person. Roddam obtained power of attorney over his 94-year-old aunt, in order to handle her affairs when she entered a Jefferson County assisted living facility in June of 2015. It is alleged that Roddam misappropriated approximately \$85,000 from June of 2015 through October of 2016. Attorneys for the facility contacted the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, which then initiated an investigation.

Financial exploitation of an elderly person in the first-degree (Ala. Code 1975 §13A-6-195) provides that any person who breaches their fiduciary duty under a power of attorney that results in unauthorized appropriations of an elderly person's property is guilty of a class B felony if the unauthorized appropriations exceed \$2,500. For the purposes of this statute a person is considered "elderly" if they are older than 60 years of age. A class B felony carries a possible sentence of two to 20 years in the Alabama Department of Corrections.

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is tasked with investigating and prosecuting providers who file false claims to the Alabama Medicaid Agency. The other major function of the unit is to investigate and prosecute allegations of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of elderly persons in skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities.

Attorney General Marshall commended the staff and administration of St. Martins in the Pines for their vigilance, as well his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for its investigation leading to the indictment of this individual and for seeking justice for the elderly resident.

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

--30--

