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AG STRANGE ANNOUNCES SECOND CONVICTION IN MEDICAID FRAUD, IDENTITY THEFT SCHEME

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced that Gill Reynolds-Pridgett, 23, of Cleveland, Ohio, pleaded guilty today in Montgomery County Circuit Court to defrauding the Alabama Medicaid Agency.

Reynolds-Pridgett was indicted for his role in the filing of numerous false claims for payment to the Alabama Medicaid Agency, through a scheme involving his possession of the identifying information of approximately 25 Alabama residents. He has been held at the Montgomery County Detention Facility since November 8, 2015.

Prosecutors described how Reynolds-Pridgett, along with a co-defendant Darnell Davon Nash, 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, which advertised assistance with obtaining government subsidies. Victims would call the number provided and give their identifying information. Nash and his co-defendant would then use the stolen data to bill Medicaid for alleged services provided by the physician's office.

Reynolds-Pridgett pleaded guilty to one count of Medicaid fraud, an unclassified felony, before Circuit Judge Gregory Griffin. He was sentenced to five years, which was suspended, and placed on probation. The other defendant, Nash, pleaded guilty in June of 2015 and was sentenced to four years of incarceration, to run concurrently with a federal 15-year sentence for unrelated crimes.

"These defendants 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," said Attorney General Strange. "I am pleased that they have been stopped and are being punished for their 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 U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Marshals Service, the Ohio Office of the U.S. Department of Labor and the Ohio Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, for their valuable assistance.

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