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Florida Attorney General's Office News Release

AG Moody Announces Arrest of Woman Exploiting Disabled Senior



TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, with the assistance of the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, today arrested a former employee from a skilled rehabilitation center for exploiting a disabled senior. According to the investigation, Kari Faye Luper obtained the credit card of a vulnerable adult under her care and used the funds for personal benefit.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Taking advantage of a vulnerable adult, especially someone who is entrusted to one's care to fund a shopping spree, is reprehensible. Our seniors deserve the utmost care and should not have to worry about their caretakers exploiting them. Thanks to my Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, this defendant will be held accountable."

Luper worked as a housekeeping aide for Dolphin Pointe Health Center, a skilled nursing home and rehabilitation center that provides health care services, including occupational, physical and speech therapies. According to the investigation, Luper gained access to the disabled adult's credit card and used the card over the course of several days to make hundreds of dollars' worth of personal purchases.

Luper faces one count of criminal use of the personal identification of a disabled adult, a second-degree felony; one count of exploitation of a disabled adult, a third-degree felony punishable; and one count of fraudulent use of a credit card, another third-degree felony. Attorney General Moody's MFCU will prosecute the case through an agreement with the State Attorney's Office for the Fourth Judicial Circuit.

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The Florida Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates and prosecutes providers that intentionally defraud the state's Medicaid program through fraudulent billing practices. Medicaid fraud essentially steals from Florida's taxpayers. From January 2019 to the present, Attorney General Moody's MFCU has obtained more than $74 million in settlements and judgments.

The Florida MFCU is funded through a grant totaling $27,734,297 for Federal Fiscal Year 2022, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. The Federal Share of these funds is 75% totaling $20,800,724. The State Matching Share of these funds is 25% totaling $6,933,573 and is funded by Florida.