

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES PRISON SENTENCE OF FORMER BOOKKEEPER FOR THEFT OF \$115,734 FROM WETUMPKA NURSING HOME

(MONTGOMERY)--Attorney General Luther Strange announced that a former bookkeeper employed by a Wetumpka nursing home today was sentenced to prison for the theft of \$115,734 of residents' funds from the facility.

Joseph James Feagin Jr., 33, of Wetumpka, was sentenced this morning by Elmore County Circuit Judge John Bush to serve 18 months in the state penitentiary on his conviction for first-degree theft of property. Feagin pleaded guilty on January 30, 2012.

An investigation conducted by the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit determined that, while Feagin was employed as a financial specialist at Wetumpka Health and Rehabilitation, he accessed a number of resident accounts in the facility's computer database that had credit balances, and changed the payee information on the accounts. Feagin then submitted refund requests on the accounts and had checks sent to himself, his boyfriend and five other acquaintances. Nursing home officials immediately contacted the Attorney General's Medicaid fraud Control Unit and refunded the money once the theft was discovered.

Judge Bush ordered Feagin's sentence to run consecutive, following his completion of a two-year prison term that he is currently serving for an unrelated theft conviction in Montgomery County. Feagin will then serve three years of supervised probation upon his release from prison. He was further ordered to pay full restitution to the nursing home.

"I hope this stern sentence will serve as a deterrent to those who seek to prey upon the elderly," said Attorney General Strange. He praised the nursing home management for its quick action once the theft was discovered, and commended the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for its investigation, and the Unit's Director, Assistant Attorney General Bruce Lieberman, who prosecuted this case.

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