

NEWS ADVISORY

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES MEDICAID FRAUD INDICTMENT OF NON-PROFIT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(MONTGOMERY)-- Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest of Lula Jones Bridges, 58, of Notasulga. Bridges is charged with nine counts of filing false claims with the Alabama Medicaid Agency, which is Medicaid fraud, and one count of first-degree theft of property.

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit presented evidence to the April 2015 term of the Montgomery grand jury resulting in an indictment* charging Bridges with filing numerous false claims to the Alabama Medicaid Agency totaling over \$550,000.00, as well as first-degree theft of property.

Bridges is the Executive Director of Hope for Families and Community Services (HFCS), a non-profit agency based in Tuskegee. It is alleged that Bridges oversaw a scheme to bill the Alabama Medicaid Agency for counseling services that were never provided and then attempted to conceal the fraud by manipulating treatment records.

Medicaid fraud is an unclassified felony with a maximum possible prison sentence of five years for each count. Theft of property in the first degree is a class "B" felony, which carries a possible prison sentence of two to 20 years imprisonment.

Attorney General Strange commended his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for its steadfast investigation of this case, and thanked the Alabama Medicaid Agency's Program Integrity Unit, which referred the case for investigation and prosecution.

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

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