

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2015

For More Information, contact:

Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

Page 1 of 1

AG ANNOUNCES ARREST OF A NURSING HOME BOOKKEEPER FOR THEFT SCHEME INVOLVING PATIENT TRUST FUND MONIES

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest of a former employee of a Birmingham nursing home this week for theft of patient trust fund monies. Gwendolyn Michelle Lacy, 38, of Birmingham was arrested on June 29, 2015.

The Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit presented evidence to a Jefferson County grand jury resulting in an indictment* dated March 6, 2015, charging Lacy with one count of first-degree theft of property and three counts of computer tampering.

It is alleged that while acting as a bookkeeper for East Glen Nursing Home in Birmingham, Lacy stole over four thousand dollars from the patient trust fund. It is further alleged that Lacy manipulated the electronic files of three residents in order to hide the theft. As bookkeeper Lacy had access to each of the nursing home residents’ “face sheet”, an electronic profile listing points of contact and other personal information. It is alleged that Lacy accessed the face sheets of three residents and added the names of her associates as family members of the residents. She then wrote checks to these individuals from East Glen’s resident trust account which were subsequently cashed. In total nine checks were written for a total of \$4,068.

The other individuals involved have been charged, however, no other information can be released at this time.

Theft of property in the first degree is a class B felony, which carries a possible prison sentence of two to 20 years in the Department of Corrections. Computer tampering is a class C felony, which carries a possible prison sentence of a year and a day up to 10 years in the Department of Corrections.

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

