

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information, contact:

Mike Lewis (334) 353-2199

Joy Patterson (334) 242-7491

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AG ANNOUNCES ARREST OF A LIMESTONE COUNTY LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE FOR THEFT OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest of a former employee of an Athens area rehabilitation center and senior care facility for theft of hydrocodone. Britney Lauren Forsyth, 29, of Athens was arrested on August 6 by the Limestone County Sheriff’s office on the warrant and released on \$2,500 bond.

The Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit presented evidence to a Limestone County grand jury resulting in an indictment* on July 24 charging Forsyth with theft of property in the second degree. The charges allege that Forsyth, a licensed practical nurse at Athens Rehabilitation Center and Senior Care, caused several prescriptions for Hydrocodone-- an opioid that is a schedule 2 controlled substance-- to be filled before they were actually needed. She then picked up the prescriptions, but did not record and store them for distribution to the patients. This was discovered when staff at the facility attempted to call in the correct refill prescriptions. Forsyth also attempted to conceal the theft by manipulating the required narcotic documentation log.

Theft of property in the second degree is a class C felony with a possible sentence of a year and a day to ten years incarceration in the Alabama Department of Corrections. Because Hydrocodone is a controlled substance the theft is automatically classified as in the second degree.

Attorney General Strange commended the staff and administration of Athens Rehabilitation Center and Senior Care, as well as his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for the investigation of the case.

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

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