

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AG ANNOUNCES ARREST OF FORMER DIRECTOR OF NURSING OF BIRMINGHAM NURSING HOME FOR THEFT OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(MONTGOMERY) – Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest of the former director of nursing of a Birmingham area nursing home for theft of Hydrocodone. Marie White Tucker, 56, of Carbon Hill, surrendered this afternoon at the Walker County Jail.

The Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit presented evidence to a Jefferson County grand jury resulting in an indictment* on August 21 charging Tucker with theft of property in the second degree. The charges allege that Tucker, a registered nurse and the director of nursing at North Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, was diverting Hydrocodone, a controlled substance, which had been discontinued or was scheduled to be destroyed. This was discovered when staff reported the medications had not been logged correctly. An audit was conducted and Tucker is believed to have stolen more than 1,800 Hydrocodone pills. It is further alleged that Tucker attempted to conceal the theft by manipulating and hiding the required narcotic documentation logs.

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 of incarceration in the Alabama Department of Corrections. Because Hydrocodone is a controlled substance the theft is automatically classified as theft of property second degree.

Attorney General Strange commended his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, which handled the investigation, and thanked the staff and administration of North Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for their cooperation and assistance.

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

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