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**AG MARSHALL ANNOUNCES ARREST OF BALDWIN COUNTY WOMAN
FOR EXPLOITATION OF MOBILE NURSING FACILITY RESIDENT**

Attorney General Steven T. Marshall announced the arrest of Tawny Pahoresky King, 34, of Fairhope, for the financial exploitation of a Mobile nursing home resident. King surrendered this morning to the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office.

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) presented evidence to a Baldwin County grand jury resulting in an indictment* dated February 17 charging King with first-degree financial exploitation of an elderly person. It is alleged that King obtained power of attorney over her 81-year-old aunt in order to handle her affairs when the aunt entered a Mobile area hospital and later went to Crowne Healthcare of Mobile. It is further alleged that King misappropriated approximately \$20,000 from March of 2016 through July of 2016, when her aunt died. A review of her aunt's financial statements showed numerous transactions that were clearly not for the care and wellbeing of the aunt, in violation of the terms of the power of attorney.

Financial exploitation of an elderly person in the first-degree (Ala. Code 1975 §13A-6-195) provides that any person who breaches his or her fiduciary duty under a power of attorney, resulting in unauthorized appropriations of an elderly person's property, is guilty of a class B felony if the unauthorized appropriations exceed \$2,500. For the purposes of this statute a person is considered "elderly" if they are 60 years of age or older. A class B felony carries a possible sentence of two to 20 years in the Alabama Department of Corrections.

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is tasked with investigating and prosecuting providers who file false claims to the Alabama Medicaid Agency. The other major function of the MFCU is to investigate and prosecute allegations of abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of elderly persons in skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities.

AG Marshall commended the staff and administration of Crowne Healthcare of Mobile for their vigilance, as well as the staff of his Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for its investigation leading to the indictment of this individual and for seeking justice for the elderly resident.

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

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