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**ATTORNEY GENERAL STRANGE ANNOUNCES ARREST OF
FORMER NURSING HOME EMPLOYEE FOR \$115,734 THEFT**

(MONTGOMERY)-- Attorney General Luther Strange announced the arrest today of a former nursing home bookkeeper for the theft of \$115,734.61 from Wetumpka Health and Rehabilitation Nursing Home in Wetumpka, Alabama.

Joseph James Feagin Jr., 32, was arrested this morning by agents of Attorney General Strange's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and the Elmore County Sheriff's Department at his home on a warrant for first-degree theft of property, a class B felony which is punishable by two to 20 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$30,000. Feagin was transported to the Elmore County Jail, where he is being held on a \$30,000 bond.

The case was investigated by Senior Special Agent Gerald Shockley and Special Agent Tracey Edwards of the Alabama Medicaid Fraud Unit after management at the nursing home reported the matter. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Bruce Lieberman, who serves as the director of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

Attorney General Strange praised the diligence of the facility's management in discovering the theft and immediately returning the money to the residents' accounts.

No further information or comment about the investigation or about Feagin's alleged crime other than that stated in the warrant may be released at this time.

**A warrant is merely an accusation. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.*