

IN THE DISTRICT COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

STATE OF ALASKA,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 vs.)
)
 LAUREN SIUFOFOGA AFUOLA,)
 DOB: 1/16/1992)
 APSIN ID: 7445159)
 DMV NO. 7304030 AK)
 ATN: 107-504-847)
)
 Defendant.)
)
 _____)
 Case No. 3AN-13- CR.

INFORMATION

I certify this document and its attachments do not contain the (1) name of a victim of a sexual offense listed in AS 12.61.140 or (2) residence or business address or telephone number of a victim of or witness to any offense unless it is an address identifying the place of a crime or an address or telephone number in a transcript of a court proceeding and disclosure of the information was ordered by the court.

The following counts charge a crime involving DOMESTIC VIOLENCE as defined in AS 18.66.990:

Count I - AS 47.05.210(a)(1)Fel C
Medical Assistance Fraud
Lauren Siufofoga Afuola - 001

Count II - AS 47.05.210(a)(5) Misd A
Medical Assistance Fraud
Lauren Siufofoga Afuola - 002

THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS AND APPEALS CHARGES:

Count I

That on or about August 22, 2011 through July 20, 2012, at or near Anchorage in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, LAUREN SIUFOFOGA AFUOLA, knowingly submitted or authorized the submission of a claim to a medical

assistance agency for property, services, or a benefit with reckless disregard that the claimant is not entitled to the property, services, or benefit.

All of which is a class C felony offense being contrary to and in violation of AS 47.05.210(a)(1) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

Count II

That on or about August 22, 2011 through July 20, 2012, at or near Anchorage in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, LAUREN SIUFOFOGA AFUOLA, knowingly made a false entry or falsely altered a medical assistance record.

All of which is a class A misdemeanor offense being contrary to and in violation of AS 47.05.210(a)(5) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

Probable Cause Statement:

The undersigned swears under oath this Information is based upon a review of the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) investigative report submitted to date.

The Department of Health and Social Services, Program Integrity Unit sent the MFCU a download of Personal Care Attendants (PCA) claims for services allegedly provided to Medicaid recipients on the same day as the recipient was hospitalized. One of the cases involved alleged care provided by PCA Lauren Afuola billing for services she alleged to have provided to Allison Afuola on the same days as Allison was hospitalized out of state.

PCAs are health care providers that the Alaska Medicaid Program pays to provide home based healthcare services which will allow Medicaid recipients to stay in their home rather than be placed in a nursing home type setting. Medicaid recipients are evaluated for their healthcare needs and a PCA is then hired to provide those needs in the recipient's home. The PCA fills out a timesheet for the work done and submits that to a PCA agency who in turn bills Medicaid. Medicaid pays approximately \$24 an hour to the agency and the agency must pay the PCA at least half of that amount.

The download from Program Integrity indicated that Lauren Afuola billed for services she alleged to have provided to Allison Afuola on three separate dates when

Allison was hospitalized out of state. Specifically, Lauren claimed to have provided services from August 22, 2011 – August 26, 2011, September 13, 2011 – September 15, 2011 and July 16, 2012 – July 20, 2012. Medicaid billing, however, revealed that Allison was hospitalized in Seattle during these dates. A review of records from Swedish Medical in Seattle, Washington and Providence Hospital verified that Allison was hospitalized during these dates. Travel documents from U.S. Travel revealed that Medicaid paid for airline tickets for Allison Afuola and Rosita Afuola to go to Seattle.

A review of timesheets submitted to Good Faith Services, LLC revealed that Lauren Afuola billed for services she claimed to be providing to Allison on all of the dates that Allison was hospitalized in Seattle and Anchorage. Lauren alleged on the timesheets submitted that she assisted Allison dressing, taking medication, bathing, toileting and grooming during the time she was hospitalized. Medicaid was billed and paid a total of \$521.48 for services that Lauren alleged to have provided to Allison while Allison was hospitalized.

Medical regulations provide that PCA services may be provided only to a recipient who is living in the recipient’s personal residence. The regulation specifically excludes hospital stays from qualifying as a personal residence. See 7AAC 125.050(a) and (b). Alaska law provides that a person commits the crime of medical assistance fraud if the person knowingly submits or authorizes the submission of a claim to a medical assistance agency for a benefit with a reckless disregard that the claimant is entitled to the benefit. See 47.05.210(a)(1). This offense is punishable as a class C felony offense if the amount of the benefit is greater than \$500, but less than \$25,000. See 47.05.210(b)(2). Finally, Alaska law provides that a person commits the crime of medical assistance fraud if the person knowingly makes a false entry in or falsely alters a medical assistance record. See AS 47.05.210(a)(5).

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Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, this ____ day of July, 2013.

MICHAEL C. GERAGHTY
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: _____

A. Andrew Peterson
Assistant Attorney General
Alaska Bar No. 0601002

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this ____ day of
July 2013, at Anchorage, Alaska.

Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: End of Hire