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

STATE OF ALASKA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

LAURIE MARIE GARDNER

DOB: 09/30/1986

APSIN ID: 7095294

DMV NO.: 7102513 AK

ATN: 115745175

Defendant.

No.3PA-17-_____ CR (Laurie Marie Gardner)

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)

Medical Assistance Fraud

Laurie Marie Gardner - 001

Count II - AS 47.05.210(a)(5)

Medical Assistance Fraud

Laurie Marie Gardner - 002

THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARGES:

COUNT I

That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about May-July, 2016, at or near Wasilla, LAURIE MARIE GARDNER, knowingly submitted or authorized the submission

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

3 All of which is a Misdemeanor class A offense being contrary to and in violation of
4 47.05.210(a)(1) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

5
6 **COUNT II**

7 That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about May-July, 2016, at or
8 near Wasilla, LAURIE MARIE GARDNER, knowingly made a false entry or falsely altered a
9 medical assistance record.

10 All of which is a Misdemeanor class A offense being contrary to and in violation of
11 47.05.210(a)(5) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.

12
13 The undersigned swears under oath this Information is based upon a review of police
14 report 0656396 submitted to date. Further information:

15 The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) is conducting a joint State and Federal
16 investigation into fraudulent Medicaid billing by Personal Care Attendants (PCAs). PCAs are
17 enrolled in Medicaid as home-based healthcare providers. The Alaska Medicaid Program pays
18 PCAs to provide services of daily living to Medicaid recipients, which will allow Medicaid
19 recipients to stay in their home rather than be placed in an assisted living home type setting.
20 Medicaid recipients are evaluated for medical needs by an employee of the Department of Health
21 and Social Services. The DHSS evaluator decides on an appropriate number of hours for the
22 recipient to receive home healthcare based on the recipient's needs. The Medicaid recipient is
23 then authorized to hire a PCA through a PCA agency to provide those home based healthcare
24 services. The PCA fills out a timesheet for the work done over the course of specific day or

1 week and both the PCA and the recipient (or guardian) signs the timesheet. The PCA then
2 submits the timesheet to a PCA agency. The PCA agency in turn bills Medicaid. Medicaid pays
3 approximately \$24 an hour to the agency and the agency must pay the PCA at least half of that
4 amount.

5 This case arose from a tip from PCA agency Genacta In Home Health Care, which
6 contacted MFCU when they observed that timesheets turned in by PCA Laurie Gardner appeared
7 forged. During the summer of 2016, Gardner was employed by Genacta as a PCA for KT.
8 DHSS had authorized approximately 13.5 hours of home healthcare for KT per week. KT's
9 legal guardian Colleen Andrews and KT's father RT met with the staff at Genacta to go over
10 Gardner's timesheets. Andrews confirmed that, as KT's legal guardian, she typically signs the
11 timesheets, however there were several timesheets turned in by Gardner for PCA services not
12 actually rendered by Gardner and with forged signatures. Andrews identified several
13 discrepancies that included 15- or 30-minute time periods at the front of or end of the day, or
14 when days were marked having worked other hours than those actually worked for that particular
15 day. Andrews also identified several timesheets corresponding to when the family, including
16 KT, would go camping for several days or when Gardner would otherwise not show up to work.
17 During those days, Gardner would provide no PCA services at all, however Gardner filed
18 timesheets indicating that she worked those days and was paid for those days. Andrews stated
19 that her signatures on those timesheets were forged. Genacta staff called Gardner into their
20 office to discuss the matter. At that meeting, Gardner admitted that she forged the timesheets
21 however claimed to have nonetheless worked all the hours claimed.

22 The days Andrews identified where Gardner forged days of work on the timesheets are as
23 follows: 5/28/16-5/30/16 the family was camping, 7/4/16 Gardner took the holiday off, 7/6/16-

1 7/7/16 Gardner did not show for work, 7/14/16 Gardner did not show for work, 7/25/16 Gardner
2 did not show for work. On each of those days Gardner claimed to have worked on her
3 timesheets, and forged Andrews' signature on those timesheets.

4 Gardner committed fraud under AS § 47.05.210(a)(1) and (a)(5). The total amount of
5 PCA work paid by Medicaid to Gardner in relation to KT's care was approximately \$3928.64,
6 and for purposes of AS § 47.05.210(b), the portion Gardner fraudulently claimed was a
7 percentage of the total and greater than \$0.

8 **BAIL INFORMATION**

9 The State is requesting a summons issue for Gardner with appropriate O/R conditions
10 of release set at arraignment.

11
12 Dated at Palmer, Alaska, this ____ day of January, 2017.

13 **JAHNA LINDEMUTH**
14 **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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16 By: _____
17 Eric Senta
18 Assistant Attorney General
19 Alaska Bar No. 1011091
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