

**Department of Law, Criminal Division** 310 K Street Suite 601, Anchorage, AK 99501 Phone: (907) 269-6250 Fax: (907) 269-7939 5

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Information

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State v. Roberto Suyat Raguindin,

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## THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARGES: COUNT I

That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about Nov. 2010 to Jan. 3 4 2011, at or near Anchorage, ROBERTO SUYAT RAGUINDIN, 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, in an amount between \$500-\$25,000. 8

9 All of which is a Felony class C offense being contrary to and in violation of 10 47.05.210(a)(1) and 47.05.210(b)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of 11 Alaska. 12

## COUNT II

That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about Nov. 2012 to Dec. 2012, at or near Anchorage, ROBERTO SUYAT RAGUINDIN, 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, in an amount between \$500-\$25,000.

All of which is a Felony class C offense being contrary to and in violation of 22 47.05.210(a)(1) and 47.05.210(b)(2) and against the peace and dignity of the State of 23 24 Alaska.

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1	COUNT III
2	That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about Nov. 29th, 2010
3	to Jan. 21st, 2011, at or near Anchorage, ROBERTO SUYAT RAGUINDIN, knowingly
4	made a false entry or falsely altered a medical assistance record.
5	All of which is a Misdemeanor class A offense being contrary to and in violation
6 7	of 47.05.210(a)(5) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.
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9	COUNT IV
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11	That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about Nov. 18th, 2012
12	to Dec. 27th, 2012, at or near Anchorage, ROBERTO SUYAT RAGUINDIN, knowingly
13	made a false entry or falsely altered a medical assistance record.
14	All of which is a Misdemeanor class A offense being contrary to and in violation
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16	F47.05.210(a)(5) and against the peace and dignity of the State of Alaska.
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18	The undersigned swears under oath this Information is based upon a review of
19	police report 0665486 submitted to date.
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21	Further information:
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23	This case arose from a tip received by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU)
24	from an audit of random adult public assistance recipients conducted by Department of
25 26	Health and Social Services with cooperation from Immigration and Customs
20	
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II

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Enforcement. The fraud was uncovered on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 as a result of DHSS auditing MR.

3 Personal Care Assistants, or PCAs, are enrolled in Medicaid as home-based 4 healthcare providers. The Alaska Medicaid Program pays PCA agencies to provide 5 services of daily living to Medicaid recipients, which will allow Medicaid recipients to 6 stay in their home rather than be placed in an assisted living home type setting. Medicaid 7 8 recipients are evaluated for medical needs by an employee of the Department of Health 9 and Social Services. The DHSS evaluator decides on an appropriate number of hours for 10 the recipient to receive home healthcare based on the recipient's needs. The Medicaid 11 recipient is then authorized to hire a PCA through a PCA agency to provide those home 12 13 based healthcare services. The PCA fills out a timesheet for the work done over the 14 course of specific day or week and both the PCA and the recipient (or guardian) signs the 15 timesheet. The PCA then submits the timesheet to a PCA agency. The PCA agency in 16 turn bills Medicaid. Medicaid pays approximately \$24 an hour to the agency and the 17 18 agency must pay the PCA at least half of that amount.

One type of Medicaid fraud investigated by MFCU is known as "travel billing." An offender commits travel billing fraud by submitting timesheets claiming to have provided PCA services that cannot possibly have been provided because the provider or the recipient, or both, are traveling outside the United States at the time of the purported service. Prior to December 23, 2011, Alaska Medicaid could authorize payment for PCA services while travelling internationally if the travel was pre-approved. On December 23, 2011, the Department of Health sent out a notice to all Medicaid providers that federal

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law prohibits Medicaid expenditures for services outside the United States. Under no circumstances may a recipient travel outside of the United States of America and still receive Medicaid-funded services. See 7 AAC 125.050, and 18 U.S.C. § 1396a(80).

MR has been approved by DHSS to receive PCA services from at least Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 5 2010 to April 2017, during which time Medicaid has paid over \$200,000 in various Medicaid services for her care. DHSS has authorized an amount of hours averaging 3 or 7 8 4 hours per day for her care under Medicaid billing code T1019. A substantial 9 percentage of those Medicaid services were for PCA care administered by her son, 10 Roberto Raguindin, via the PCA care agency Arctic Care Services, LLC. Roberto Raguindin began working as a PCA for his mother MR through Arctic Care Services on 12 13 October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Through the course of his application process, Mr. Raguindin signed 14 a statement indicating the following: "The following are expected of you to report to the 15 agency within 24 hours or earlier if possible. It is the PCA and/or the client's 16 responsibility to report the following incidences: ... When client is going out of state." 17

18 MR traveled outside of the United States from Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 to Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, 19 traveling via Taipei on China Air. MR also traveled outside the United States from Nov. 20 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012, traveling via Incheon on Korean Air. During each of those trips, her PCA Roberto Raguindin submitted time sheets reflecting that he provided MR's 22 23 care either 3 or 4 hours per day during the days when MR was out of the country. 24 Roberto Raguindin was then paid by Arctic Care, and Arctic Care was in turn paid by 25 Medicaid for Raguindin's fraudulent billing. The total loss to Medicaid for the time 26

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periods between Nov. 29th 2010 - Jan 21st, 2011 and from Nov. 18th, 2012 - Dec. 27th, 1 2012 was \$8,683.87. 2

3 Neither MR nor Roberto Raguindin submitted a travel request for the Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>, 4 2010 to Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 time period, nor was travel billing authorized by DHSS for that 5 time period. As previously explained, travel billing could not have been authorized for the latter time period. ICE confirmed MR's travel out of the country on those dates, and 7 8 ICE also confirmed that Roberto Raguindin did not travel out of the country on those 9 dates.

MFCU Investigator Kandi Stewart conducted an interview with MR and Roberto 11 Raguindin. Mr. Raguindin stated that MR traveled out of the country approximately 12 13 every two years, typically with another family member, and that he did not accompany 14 her when she traveled. Mr. Raguindin stated that he turned the fraudulent time sheets in 15 without the knowledge of MR or MR's medical power of attorney. Mr. Raguindin 16 acknowledged that he did not do the work reflected on the time sheets. He further 17 18 acknowledged that he should not have gotten paid for work he did not do, but stated that 19 he needed the money. Mr. Raguindin expressed that he wanted to pay the money back. 20

ICE further confirmed that MR traveled outside of the country on similar dates in Nov. and Dec. 2014 and 2016. During those two trips, Mr. Raguindin submitted a travel 22 23 authorization form to DHSS via Arctic Care. DHSS, consistent with the law banning out-24 of-country billing, denied the travel authorization requests and did not allow Mr. 25 Raguindin to receive Medicaid payment for services provided during MR's out-of-26

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country travel. Despite filing the travel billing request, Mr. Raguindin did not travel out of country for those trips.

3 Roberto Raguindin violated AS § 47.05.210(a)(1) by submitting false Medicaid 4 claim forms for the periods of Nov. 29th 2010 - Jan 21st, 2011 and from Nov. 18th, 2012 -5 Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 with reckless disregard that he was not entitled to the property, services 6 or benefit he was claiming. Each offense date range totaled greater than \$500 but less 7 8 than \$25,000 in fraud. During each of those offense date ranges, Raguindin also violated 9 AS § 47.05.210(1)(5) by knowingly making several false entries in medical assistance 10 records. 11

## BAIL INFORMATION

The defendant has no criminal history in Alaska. The State is requesting a summons issue for the defendant.

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, this <u>day of June</u>, 2017.

## JAHNA LINDEMUTH ATTORNEY GENERAL

By:

Eric Senta Assistant Attorney General Alaska Bar No. 1011091