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

STATE OF ALASKA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PUNIPUAO S ULBERG

DOB: 06/07/1976

APSIN ID: 7796936

DMV NO.: 7454053 AK

ATN: 115745544

Defendant.

No. 3AN-18-_____ CR (Punipuaos S Ulberg)

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
Punipuaos S Ulberg - 001

THE OFFICE OF SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS CHARGES:

COUNT I

That in the Third Judicial District, State of Alaska, on or about Nov. 16, 2015 to May 3, 2016, at or near Anchorage, PUNIPUAO S ULBERG, 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, and the property, services or benefit was greater than \$500.

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

3
4 The undersigned swears under oath this Information is based upon a review of police
5 report 0669856 submitted to date.

6
7 This case arose from a tip received by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) on June
8 12th, 2017 from Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Social Security Administration.

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

23
24 One type of Medicaid fraud investigated by MFCU is known as "travel billing." An
25 offender commits travel billing fraud by submitting timesheets claiming to have provided PCA
26 services that cannot possibly have been provided because the provider or the recipient, or both,
27

1 are traveling outside the United States at the time of the purported service. Prior to December
2 23, 2011, Alaska Medicaid could authorize payment for PCA services while travelling
3 internationally if the travel was pre-approved. On December 23, 2011, the Department of Health
4 and Social Services sent out a notice to all Medicaid providers that federal law prohibits
5 Medicaid expenditures for services outside the United States. Under no circumstances may a
6 recipient travel outside of the United States of America and still receive Medicaid-funded
7 services. See 7 AAC 125.050, and 42 U.S.C. § 1396a(80). Under certain circumstances, a PCA
8 may travel inter-state (or to a territory) and still receive services paid for by Alaska Medicaid,
9 but that requires prior authorization.

11 PCA Punipua Ulberg worked for PCA agency Arctic Care Services since approximately
12 August 2015. She claimed to be providing PCA services to her father, Medicaid recipient
13 Siaumau Siaumau Jr. Her mother, Leafaitulagi Siaumau, was Siaumau Jr.'s guardian or power
14 of attorney who routinely signed the timesheets for Siaumau Jr. Siaumau Jr. was also being paid
15 social security disability payments through the Social Security Administration (SSA). This
16 Medicaid case arose when Social Security Administration Special Agent Dale Boring and ICE
17 Investigator Tim Brady began investigating Siaumau Jr. for being out of the country longer than
18 the allowed amount of time by the relevant SSA regulation. Concurrent with Siaumau Jr. being
19 investigated for Social Security fraud, Ulberg was referred to the MFCU for fraudulently billing
20 Medicaid for falsely claiming to provide PCA services to Siaumau Jr. while he was out of the
21 country or in American Samoa and she was in Alaska. The MFCU opened a case on Ulberg on
22 June 12th, 2017, and MFCU Investigator Dan Boone was assigned the case.

25 Inv. Brady provided Inv. Boone and Inv. Boring ICE records showing that Siaumau
26 Siaumau Jr. and his wife Leafaitulagi Siaumau were out of the country or in America Samoa
27

1 during several time periods. During those time periods, Ulberg billed Alaska Medicaid (and
2 Alaska Medicaid paid) as if she were working as her father's PCA in Alaska. Ulberg filled out
3 and submitted several false timesheets to her PCA agency, and also forged her parents'
4 signatures on those timesheets. Ulberg billed (and Medicaid paid) approximately \$9,500 for the
5 following dates that Siaumau Jr. was either out of the country or in American Samoa: 11/16/2015
6 thru 01/16/2016, and 02/29/2016 thru 05/03/2016. During those time periods, Ulberg was in
7 Alaska, and Ulberg filed several false timesheets through Arctic Care claiming to have
8 performed services in Alaska, such as assistance in Siaumau Jr.'s dressing, meal preparation,
9 bathing, locomotion, toileting, etc. Those timesheets claiming work in Alaska were clearly false
10 because Siaumau Jr. was in America Samoa during those time periods.
11

12 Inv. Boone interviewed Ulberg at her home. Ulberg stated that she was the one who
13 signed her name on the timesheets, and she also forged her mother's name on the timesheets in
14 order to get paid. Ulberg stated she was not entitled to the money, but was in a desperate
15 financial situation and needed money.
16

17 BAIL INFORMATION

18 No criminal history

19 Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, this ____ day of March, 2018.
20

21 JAHNA LINDEMUTH
22 ATTORNEY GENERAL
23

24 By: _____
25 Eric Senta
26 Assistant Attorney General
27 Alaska Bar No. 1011091