

Steve Marshall
Alabama Attorney General



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Attorney General Steve Marshall Announces Sentencing of Former Medicaid Employee for \$100,000 Theft by Deception

(Montgomery, Ala) – Attorney General Steve Marshall announced today that former Alabama Medicaid employee Natalie Lewis has been sentenced for aggravated theft by deception in connection with the theft of more than \$100,000. Lewis pled guilty to the charge in August. Lewis admitted to using her position as a Medicaid employee to approve fraudulent payments over 1,600 times over the course of five years totaling over \$100,000. Those payments were loaded onto an EBT card that Lewis used.

At a sentencing hearing held October 2, Judge Brooke Reid sentenced Lewis to ten years in prison, with three years to serve. After serving three years, Lewis will be placed on probation for two years, with the remaining seven years suspended. Judge Reid ordered Lewis to begin serving her sentence immediately in the county jail.

At a later date, the court will determine whether Lewis may serve the remainder of her three-year sentence in the community corrections program.

"Public employees hold a position of trust, and when that trust is violated, particularly when taxpayer dollars are stolen, there must be consequences," Attorney General Marshall said. "This sentence makes clear that abuse of public office will not be tolerated, and the people of Alabama will be made whole."

As required by state law, Lewis will forfeit her state retirement benefits because she used her official position to commit a felony. While she will not receive her state-funded retirement, she is entitled to the contributions she made to her retirement account with interest. Lewis has agreed that those funds will be applied toward restitution owed.

The Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigated and prosecuted the case after the theft was discovered by the Alabama Medicaid Agency. The Medicaid Fraud Control Unit receives 75 percent of its funding – \$1.2 million in FY2024 – through an annual grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Inspector General.

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