



News Release

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES INVESTIGATORS ARREST INDIVIDUALS ACCUSED OF IHSS FRAUD

LOS ANGELES – California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Director David Maxwell-Jolly today announced that DHCS investigators have arrested 12 Los Angeles area individuals for allegedly defrauding the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program and other public assistance programs of nearly \$1 million. Investigators anticipate making one additional arrest from the ongoing operation.

Two of the suspects are IHSS participants alleged to have defrauded the program and state of California of more than \$390,000 by applying for IHSS services under multiple names and Social Security numbers. DHCS initiated this investigation at the request of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services, Social Security Administration and federal Office of the Inspector General.

“I applaud our investigators’ aggressive moves to clamp down on potential fraud in the IHSS program,” said Maxwell-Jolly. “Their ongoing close collaboration with area law enforcement and government agencies is key to establishing an effective anti-fraud program that protects scarce taxpayer dollars and enhances the effectiveness of our safety net programs.”

The IHSS program offers an alternative to out-of-home care by providing state, county and federal funding to enable program recipients to hire a caregiver. Individuals eligible for IHSS services are disabled, age 65 or older or blind and unable to live safely at home without help and financially unable to purchase needed services.

The following defendants will be charged in Los Angeles County Superior Court with grand theft, perjury and/or filing false applications:

- Susie Claborn and another area suspect who has not yet been apprehended allegedly used fraudulently obtained names and Social Security numbers to obtain payment for IHSS services. Claborn is suspected of using two of her own family member’s identifications and Social Security numbers. The IHSS loss in her case is estimated at \$116,000. The other suspect collected Social Security benefits for mental illness under one name and Social Security number and allegedly obtained IHSS payment using two names and Social Security numbers. The recipients cared for by the suspect since 1997 were also mentally ill. The estimated IHSS loss attributed to this case is \$275,456.

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- Vickie Miles Ansaar and Wali Sultan Ansaar are alleged to have committed Section 8 fraud in addition to Social Security and IHSS fraud. Section 8 is federally subsidized housing for low-income individuals. The total IHSS loss attributed to their alleged fraud is estimated at \$81,713; Section 8 loss is \$98,836; and Social Security loss is \$36,969.
- Saleszni Prasad allegedly failed to report income, business, vehicles and all persons in her household when qualifying for Medi-Cal. She will be charged with making false statements and perjury. Her husband, Shailendra, is being charged with similar crimes. Together, the couple owns a limousine business, satellite installation business and travel agency. Saleszni is also a real estate agent and a notary public. The total loss due to the alleged fraud is estimated at \$68,866.
- Mojgan Zerehi failed to report that her husband, Shahram, was living in her home. During the investigation, it was discovered that Shahram was allegedly cashing Social Security warrants issued to his mother, who died two years earlier in Iran. Shahram will be charged with filing a false application and perjury. Mojgan will be charged with similar crimes. The total loss due to the alleged fraud is estimated at \$48,023.
- Lucy Lupe Trevino is an IHSS provider who submitted claims and received reimbursement for services allegedly provided from August 2006 to April 2008. The investigation revealed that the IHSS beneficiary moved to Las Vegas in August 2006 and still resides there. The IHSS beneficiary declared that Trevino did not provide any services after she left the state and that while in Nevada she has received help from Nevada's equivalent to California's IHSS program. The total loss due to the alleged fraud is estimated at \$20,603.
- La Shon Strong is alleged to have collected \$16,103 in IHSS payments over the past year despite not providing the required services to her father, a Medi-Cal beneficiary.

"The strong, appropriate actions taken in this fraud sweep are a direct reflection of the dedication among DHCS investigators to protect against fraud and ensure that offenders are subject to prosecution to the fullest extent allowed by law," said Maxwell-Jolly.

DHCS investigates IHSS fraud and works with the California Department of Social Services and counties to refer suspected crimes to county district attorney offices for prosecution.

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