



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 three Los Angeles area individuals for allegedly defrauding the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program of nearly \$77,000.

The primary suspect is a Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) employee. She is alleged to have defrauded the program by falsely claiming to provide IHSS care to her mother, costing the state nearly \$68,000 over three years. DHCS initiated this investigation at the request of DPSS management.

“We have a zero tolerance policy for fraud,” said Maxwell-Jolly. “I applaud our investigators’ swift response to reports of potential fraud in the program. This action is the result of close collaboration with DPSS and local law enforcement.”

Added John Wagner, director of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS): “We support all efforts to ensure program integrity for IHSS. When people commit fraud, our ability to serve California’s neediest is compromised.”

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.

Among those facing fraud charges are:

- Patricia McCullough, who worked full-time for DPSS as an IHSS social worker, allegedly failed to report that she was a provider for an IHSS recipient, her mother. McCullough was paid for hundreds of hours per month for IHSS services that were not rendered. The total IHSS loss is \$67,907 over a three-year period.
- Alfred Turner, McCullough’s brother, was enrolled last August as an IHSS provider for the same recipient. Investigators found that no services were rendered to the recipient. The total IHSS loss is \$3,491.
- Jocque Robinson, the recipient’s grandson, was also enrolled last August as an IHSS provider for the recipient. Investigators found that no services were rendered to the recipient. The total IHSS loss is \$5,562.

DHCS investigates IHSS fraud and works with CDSS and counties to refer suspected crimes to law enforcement for prosecution.