



PRESS RELEASE

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AG Coffman Charges Speech Pathologist for Allegedly Stealing Over \$1M from Medicaid

DENVER- Colorado Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman today announced the filing of charges against licensed Speech Language Pathologist Tara Leigh Rose, owner of Beyond Words, LLC. Rose was charged with six counts of felony theft and six counts of felony computer crime after allegedly fraudulently billing Medicaid for over \$1.2 million.

“The Medicaid program provides over a million low-income Coloradans with vital medical coverage,” said Attorney General Coffman. “Medicaid fraud steals from Colorado taxpayers and diverts limited healthcare resources from our vulnerable communities. My office will continue to aggressively prosecute any health care provider who engages in this type of criminal activity.”

After an investigation by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit including interviews with the individuals that Rose billed Medicaid for treating, it is alleged that \$1,281,885.41 or 64% of the \$2.1 million in funds received by Rose from the Medicaid program between March of 2011 and February of 2017, were based upon her submission of claims containing deceptive and fraudulent information.

In these false billings, Rose received funds for sessions with Medicaid clients that simply did not occur. For the patients that Rose did see, she billed for treatments that were not provided during their sessions, and in many instances, billed for phantom visits that never occurred.

An arrest warrant was issued for Rose, and she was taken into custody by local law enforcement after being involved in a car accident.

The Attorney General’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit is dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of Medicaid provider fraud. The unit also investigates

and prosecutes abuse of residents in Medicaid-funded nursing homes and state facilities. To report suspected Medicaid fraud or abuse, contact the AG's Office at mfcu.investigations@coag.gov or (720) 508-6696.

The filing of criminal charges is merely a formal accusation that an individual committed a crime. Every defendant should be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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CONTACT

Annie Skinner
Colorado Attorney General's Office
720-508-6553
Annie.skinner@coag.gov