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**KINGS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHARLES J. HYNES, NYC HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONER ROBERT DOAR, AND MEDICAID INSPECTOR GENERAL JAMES C. COX ANNOUNCE THE INDICTMENT OF KRISTINA ZELINSKY FOR ILLEGALLY COLLECTING OVER \$25,000 IN MEDICAID BENEFITS SINCE 2003**

**Brooklyn, August 6, 2013** – Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, Human Resources Administration Commissioner Robert Doar, and Medicaid Inspector General James C. Cox today announced the indictment of Kristina Zelinsky, 34, for fraudulently collecting more than \$25,000 in Medicaid benefits since 2003, by lying about her income and assets. The joint investigation uncovered the defendant lived in a luxury apartment, had multiple cars, took vacations and shopped at high-end stores.

The charges against Zelinsky include Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. If convicted of the top count, Zelinsky faces up to seven years in prison.

“Public assistance funds are meant to help families who can’t afford basic needs, such as healthcare,” said D.A. Hynes. “People like this defendant may think she is committing a victimless crime. But, she and others who engage in this type of fraud are stealing thousands of dollars out of innocent people’s pockets. My office will continue to investigate and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law.”

According to the indictment, the defendant filed her initial Medicaid application in 2003. She claimed she had no income independent of her husband, who made \$22,000 annually. . On the basis of this information the New York City Human Resources Administration enrolled Zelinsky in New York State’s Family Health Plus Medicaid Benefits program in 2003, for herself, her husband and their two children. She continued to file disclosures through 2013, listing income amounts that maintained her eligibility for the benefits.

According to property records obtained during the investigation, in 2007 the defendant purchased a penthouse apartment with a mortgage for \$850,000 at the Oceana Condominium complex in Brighton Beach. Oceana is a luxury building development that advertises apartments for as much as \$2,000,000.

Human Resources Administration Commissioner Robert Doar said, “The Medicaid program does not exist so that people who can afford luxury property and cars can steal this much-needed assistance from others. Medicaid fraud is a crime that affects those in need of

assistance, as well as the taxpaying public. If you know that you received Medicaid or other public assistance improperly, contact HRA's Bureau of Fraud Investigations at 212-274-5030. Coming forward now is a wiser choice.”

“When a person such as Ms. Zelinsky lives in luxury and owns vehicles that most people only see in movies, New York State taxpayers should not finance her health care,” said James C. Cox, Medicaid Inspector General. “This indictment should serve as a warning for others who are involved in—or considering—schemes that defraud the Medicaid system, to reconsider their actions. This collaboration between the Brooklyn DA’s Office, OMIG, and the New York City HRA clearly demonstrates that people who commit these offenses will be identified and that they stand to lose their assets as well as risk spending time in jail for such abuses of the Medicaid program.”

In addition, the investigation uncovered several personal bank accounts in the defendant’s name, as well as an account in the name of her business, Kristy Billing and Collection. According to the indictment, annual deposits to the defendant’s personal accounts in 2008, 2009, and 2010 far exceeded the maximum amount allowed for individuals receiving Family Health Plus Medicaid.

In 2008, the average, monthly deposits to the defendant’s personal bank account were \$4600. The allowable monthly income limit for Medicaid benefits for a family of four was \$2650 a month. In 2009, the defendant’s average monthly deposits were \$10,600; the limit for benefit recipients-- \$2757. In 2010, the defendant’s monthly deposits averaged \$3988 and the Medicaid limit remained at \$2757.

Credit card statements in the defendant’s name also revealed that the defendant made purchases at Jimmy Choo, Juicy Couture, and several Las Vegas area hotels and restaurants. Investigators from the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General uncovered luxury cars including an Aston Martin, Porsche, and BMW in the defendant’s name.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Joel H. Greenwald of the Public Assistance Crimes Unit. Lauren Mack is the Chief of the Public Assistance Crimes Unit. Glenn Kenny and Robert Addonizio are the supervising detective investigators. Jennifer Burgos is the detective investigator.

Fraud investigators from the both the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General and Human Resources Administration worked with the District Attorney’s Office on the investigation.

An indictment is an accusatory instrument and not proof of a defendant’s guilt.

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