



Office Of The Medicaid Inspector General

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG) Investigation Leads to Arrest of Two Medicaid Providers and Results in \$160,911.78 Recovery

LITTLE ROCK, AR- On February 8, 2017, Paula Riggs, of Jonesboro, and Hannah Riggs, of Paragould, were arrested after respective warrants were issued by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for the Office of Attorney General (MFCU) for their arrest on two felony counts of Medicaid Fraud and one felony count of Failure to Maintain Records. Paula Riggs and Hannah Riggs have been accused of billing for services not rendered totaling \$36,992.00 and \$5,158.96, respectively. Both cases originated from an investigation performed by the Office of Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG).

OMIG's investigation began after analyzing Medicaid claims data, which showed that each provider was billing an excessive number of speech therapy hours per day. Paula Riggs is a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) and Hannah Riggs is a SLP Assistant.

OMIG's investigation revealed that both providers billed for services that were not provided. Subsequently, both providers were suspended from the Arkansas Medicaid program and referred to MFCU for a credible allegation of fraud. Further, OMIG's investigation revealed that both providers failed to properly code submitted claims, which resulted in a \$160,911.78 recovery by OMIG.

Mission Statement of the Office of the Medicaid Inspector General (OMIG)

The mission of the OMIG is to prevent, detect, and investigate fraud, waste, and abuse within the medical assistance program. This mission is achieved through auditing Medicaid providers and medical assistance program functions; recovering improperly expended funds; and referring appropriate cases for criminal prosecution. OMIG works closely with providers and the medical assistance program to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse.