



**BRIAN E. FROSH, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL**

# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Maryland Clinical Counselor Pleads Guilty to Felony Medicaid Fraud**

**BALTIMORE, MD** - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that Tashayla Williams, 35, of College Point, New York, pleaded guilty to one count of felony Medicaid Fraud for submitting claims that caused the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) to reimburse Williams more than \$92,000 for counseling services that she did not provide and for counseling services that she provided by telephone when she was not authorized to perform telehealth.

Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Melissa M. Phinn sentenced Williams to five years incarceration, nearly all suspended, five years supervised probation, and ordered Williams to pay restitution to Medicaid in the amount of \$92,682.89.

Williams is a licensed clinical counselor who operated a private mental health practice in Maryland. From August 2016 through August 2018, Williams submitted false claims in connection with her private mental health practice. Specifically, Williams submitted claims to Medicaid and was reimbursed for counseling sessions that had not occurred and for counseling sessions that took place over the telephone at a time when Williams was not authorized to perform telehealth.

Attorney General Frosh thanked the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for obtaining this result, specifically Assistant Attorney General Andrew J. Schell, Senior Investigator Michael Regan, and Investigator Brittany Leister. Attorney General Frosh also thanked the Maryland Department of Health, Office of Inspector General for its assistance.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2021/071621.pdf>