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PRESS RELEASE

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Reisterstown Woman Pleads Guilty to Felony Financial Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult

BALTIMORE, MD (October 6, 2022) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today announced the sentencing of Catherine A. Lawrence, 53, of Reisterstown, for felony financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult. Lawrence pleaded guilty to stealing \$14,855 in Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) payments from a vulnerable adult she cared for. Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Judge Michael Wachs sentenced Lawrence to five years of incarceration, suspending all but three years, and five years of supervised probation. Lawrence was ordered to pay restitution to the Social Security Administration in the amount of \$14,855. In addition, Judge Wachs prohibited Lawrence from working in the healthcare field or for any provider in a federally funded health care program.

Lawrence was employed at an Anne Arundel County adult daycare facility where she met the victim, who was receiving SSDI under the supervision of a court appointed guardian. In June 2015, Lawrence registered herself as the representative payee for the victim's monthly SSDI disbursement. As the representative payee, Lawrence was in direct control of SSDI disbursements and required to use the money for the care and support of the victim. From July 2016 through May 2018, Lawrence stole the victim's monthly SSDI disbursements and used the money to pay for travel, concert tickets, clothes, and pay her own bills.

In making today's announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for obtaining this result, specifically Assistant Attorney General James McHale and Senior Investigator Paul Kidd. Attorney General Frosh also thanked the Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General and Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service for their assistance.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2022/100622.pdf>