



December 21, 2012

### **Nevada Woman Sentenced for Welfare Fraud**

Today, 50 year old Las Vegas resident Rebecca Martinez was sentenced to spend nine months in jail in Anchorage for defrauding Alaska's welfare programs and for Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) fraud. Additionally, Martinez was placed on probation for five years and ordered to pay more than \$50,000 in restitution to the State.

Martinez defrauded the State by applying for, and receiving public assistance benefits from 2003 through 2008. During that time, Martinez lived in Nevada and received public assistance benefits there. She also fraudulently obtained the PFD for herself and her children in 2004 and 2005. The investigation began in 2008 by the Alaska Division of Public Assistance Fraud Control Unit and included the Department of Revenue Criminal Investigations Unit.

In 2009, an Anchorage Judge issued an arrest warrant for Martinez. In the summer of 2012, the Alaska State Troopers Judicial Services Unit extradited Martinez from Nevada to Alaska to facilitate her prosecution. Today, Martinez pled guilty to theft in the first degree as part of a plea agreement with the State.

As a result of her conviction, Martinez is permanently disqualified from receiving certain public assistance benefits and from receiving the PFD. In court, she acknowledged that she fraudulently received more than \$42,000 in public assistance benefits and more than \$5000 from the PFD.

Martinez' daughter, 34 year old Monica Martinez, also from Las Vegas, Nevada, was sentenced in July 2012 for similar crimes in Anchorage. She was sentenced to serve 18 months in prison and to pay more than \$40,000 in restitution.

If you believe someone has committed public assistance fraud, go to the Division of Public Assistance fraud control website -

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dpa/Pages/features/org/fraud.asp>  
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