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CASE OF INTEREST

13 Arrested for IHSS Fraud

District Attorney Jan Scully announced today that 13 people were arrested last week on warrants issued by the multi-agency IHSS Fraud Task Force for committing In- Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Fraud and other types of public assistance fraud.

IHSS in California is a \$5 billion federal, state and county funded program designed to allow the aged, blind and disabled to remain safely in their homes, by providing in-home rather than institutional care. The District Attorney's IHSS Fraud Task Force, with investigators from the District Attorney's Office, the Department of Human Assistance and the California Department of Health Care Services, along with an agent from the Federal Social Security Administration Office of Inspector General conducted a warrant sweep to ensure that those who are charged with stealing from this important public assistance program are brought to justice.

Those arrested and charged include Elizabeth Garcia who is charged with fraudulently obtaining over \$28,000 in IHSS funds, as well as over \$31,000 in food stamp fraud and \$59,000 from Child Action, the public assistance program designed to pay for child care for low income parents in school or work; and Joe Vue who is charged with fraudulently obtaining \$40, 941 in IHSS funds as part of a scheme masterminded by his ex-wife Julie Vue, a former Department of Health and Human Services Social Worker who is currently serving a term in state prison for her role in the theft of over \$324,000 from the IHSS program. Of those arrested on warrants last week, the total charged IHSS fraud amount is \$107,374.32 and \$91,000 in fraud from other public assistance programs.

Deputy District Attorney Laura West, who heads the District Attorney's IHSS Fraud Task Force, thanked all the agencies who participated in the sweep and noted that the warrant sweep is just one part of the fraud prevention plan implemented in Sacramento County designed to ensure that those who steal from IHSS will be caught, prosecuted and ordered to pay restitution for their crimes.

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