



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

## SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORT

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
The John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 316  
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: **Home Health Aide Ordered to Pay Restitution for Felony Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Person | 2020-131P**

Dear Mayor Bowser:

On January 31, 2024, Mechille Akinkuotu, a former home health aide employed by an independent living facility for seniors, entered into a deferred sentencing agreement (DSA) in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia in which she pleaded guilty to one count of felony financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult or elderly person.<sup>1</sup> As part of the DSA, Ms. Akinkuotu will be required to pay restitution of \$2,037.98 and to stay away from the elderly person she exploited. Additionally, the plea agreement will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General to preclude her from working in federally funded health care programs.

According to court documents, had this case gone to trial, the government's evidence would have proven beyond a reasonable doubt that Ms. Akinkuotu, while providing home health aide services at the independent living facility, intentionally and knowingly used an elderly adult's debit card to make unauthorized purchases for herself, which included cosmetics, women's clothing, car related payments, and transactions at nail salons and beauty supply stores. In total, Ms. Akinkuotu's unauthorized purchases using the elderly adult's debit card was at least \$2,037.98.

This matter was discovered by a social worker employed at the independent living facility who then reported this conduct to the Office of the Attorney General (OAG). The OAG then referred this matter to the Office of the Inspector General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. Code § 22-933.01

(MFCU) for investigation and prosecution.<sup>2</sup> A Special Assistant United States Attorney with our MFCU) prosecuted this case in conjunction with the Major Crimes Section in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia Superior Court Division.

The National Council on Aging estimates that approximately one in ten Americans over the age of 59 years have experienced some form of elder abuse.<sup>3</sup> The outcome explained in this Significant Activity Report exemplifies how mandated reporting, and corresponding prompt referral, to investigative and prosecutorial agencies can ultimately ensure justice for the District's most vulnerable populations.

If you need any additional information, please contact me or LaVan Griffith, OIG MFCU Director, at (202) 727-2540 or [lavan.griffith@dc.gov](mailto:lavan.griffith@dc.gov).

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Lucas  
Inspector General

DWL/mnw

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<sup>2</sup> The OIG MFCU receives 75 percent of its funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a grant award totaling \$ 3,252,266 for Federal FY 2024. The remaining 25 percent, totaling \$ 913,758 for FY 2024, is provided by the District government.

<sup>3</sup> National Council on Aging, "Get the Facts on Elder Abuse" (Feb. 23, 2021), <https://www.ncoa.org/article/get-the-facts-on-elder-abuse> (last visited Feb. 13, 2024).

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The Honorable Brian L. Schwalb, Attorney General of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Christina Henderson, Chairperson, Committee on Health  
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The Honorable Anita Bonds, Chairperson, Committee on Executive Administration and Labor  
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