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March 22, 2013

GUARDIAN APPEARS ON THEFT, WIRE FRAUD CHARGES

Springfield — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today said a Champaign woman, who works for the state’s child welfare agency, pleaded not guilty to charges of theft and wire fraud based on a scheme in which she allegedly collected more than \$55,000 of state subsidies for the guardianship of a special needs youth who was no longer living at her residence.

The charges against Andrea Miller, 42, were contained in a criminal complaint filed last month in Champaign County. An investigation by Madigan’s office and the Illinois State Police revealed that Miller continued to receive monthly subsidies of \$1,205.41 from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) long after the special needs youth moved out of her residence in April 2007. Miller is a case manager for DCFS and a licensed foster parent.

“The role of a guardian to a special needs youth is a position of trust,” Madigan said. “The facts in this case indicate that this defendant cheated the state out of money and abused her position for her personal gain.”

Miller was arraigned before Judge Richard Klaus who set her bond at \$1,000 individual recognizance bond. The case was continued to May 14, 2013. If convicted of the charges, Miller could face up to 15 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of law.

Assistant Attorneys General David Navarro and Jennifer Martin are handling the case for Madigan’s Public Integrity Bureau.

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