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MADIGAN: DHS WORKER ARRAIGNED ON CHARGES OF THEFT, OFFICIAL MISCONDUCT

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan today announced that a former Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) caseworker was arraigned on charges of theft and official misconduct for allegedly misappropriating more than \$300,000 in assistance for needy families.

Debra Moore, 63, of Baytown, Texas, and formerly of Chicago, pleaded not guilty today in Cook County Criminal Court to two counts of Acting as an Organizer of a Continuing Financial Crimes Enterprise, a class X felony; one count of Identity Theft, a class two felony; one count of Wire Fraud, a class three felony; and two counts of Official Misconduct, a class three felony. If convicted, she faces up to 30 years in prison.

Madigan alleged that Moore, a former IDHS caseworker at the Woodlawn Family Community Resource Center, was selling LINK cards and adding unauthorized benefits to accounts of family and friends in exchange for cash payments. Between 2004 and 2013, Moore allegedly added more than \$300,000 of unauthorized benefits to ineligible recipients and often received cash payments in exchange.

“The defendant was employed to provide services to some of our state’s most vulnerable families, and she abused that trust,” Madigan said.

Moore has been out on bond under electronic monitoring in Chicago. Her next court appearance is Sept. 29.

Assistant Attorney General Kilby MacFadden and Associate Director James S. Dorger are handling the case for Madigan’s Public Integrity Bureau. The investigation was conducted in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Illinois State Police, the Office of the Executive Inspector General and the United States Department of Agriculture Office of the Inspector General.

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