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ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN & ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ALERT POLISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS TO UNLAWFUL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY PRACTICES

Chicago — Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) today alerted Polish-speaking residents and communities to a potentially unlawful and misleading employment practice involving private home care and domestic employment agencies. Madigan and IDOL are investigating whether the agencies charge excessive fees for placing home care workers in private homes but fail to honor their commitment to finding these workers lasting employment.

Madigan and IDOL have received multiple complaints about employment agencies charging workers thousands of dollars in upfront fees and misrepresenting critical facts about job placement, the duration of the job or the circumstances under which workers are entitled to refunds.

“Hard-working people are paying large amounts of money to employment agencies for placement in a long-term and stable job,” Madigan said. “The reality is that often workers pay more in job placement fees than they ever earn.”

Specifically, Madigan and IDOL are investigating Chicago-based Polonia Home Health Care Center Employment Agency Ltd., also doing business as Polonia In Home Care Services Placement Agency. They are also looking into allegations of questionable practices by several other agencies.

“Unscrupulous financial practices by agencies that victimize job-seekers constitute clear violations of Illinois law, including the Private Employment Agency Act,” IDOL Director Joe Beyer said. “The Department of Labor is committed to cracking down on exploitative and unlawful conduct by employment agencies throughout the state. We encourage other workers who have paid substantial fees to these agencies without receiving the placement services they were promised to come forward and file a complaint with IDOL or the Attorney General’s Office.”

Madigan urged workers seeking similar job placement help to review all details of employment contracts before signing them and paying any fees. She also urged workers to contact her Workplace Rights Bureau in Chicago at 1-844-740-5076 if they encounter misleading practices. Illinois residents can also contact the Illinois Department of Labor at 312-793-0761. Polish-speaking representatives are available to help workers in both Madigan’s office and the IDOL.

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