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## Press Release

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

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### **Wasilla Woman Convicted and Sentenced for Food Stamp Fraud**

On July 9, 2014, 32-year-old Jazmine Wheaton, formerly of Juneau, Alaska was convicted and sentenced for applying for, and receiving, Food Stamp benefits to which she was not entitled. The case was ultimately transferred from Juneau to Palmer. Palmer Superior Court Judge Eric Smith sentenced Ms. Wheaton to 18 months incarceration with 15 months suspended. Ms. Wheaton was ordered to serve three months in jail. Ms. Wheaton was placed on felony probation for a period of five year. Judge Smith also ordered restitution in the amount of \$12,377 to be paid to the State of Alaska. As a condition of her probation, Wheaton must also perform 100 hours of community service within the next twelve months. As a result of the conviction, Ms. Wheaton is disqualified from participating in the Food Stamp program for a period of 24 months.

The conviction and the sentence stem from a criminal investigation conducted by the State of Alaska, Division of Public Assistance (DPA) Fraud Investigation Unit. The investigation revealed that between April 2008 and September 2009 Ms. Wheaton failed to disclose income for herself and her husband. The amount of their combined unreported monthly income disqualified the family from receiving Food Stamp benefits. In determining eligibility and benefit level for Food Stamp applicants, the Division of Public Assistance is required to consider who lives in the household and available income and resources of all adult household members.

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