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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Asst. AG Devoron Hill

269-0366

Anchorage woman convicted and sentenced for Public Assistance fraud

On June 15, 2012, 48-year-old Brenna Lowe, of Anchorage, was convicted on a charge of Theft II, a Class C Felony, related to fraudulent application and receipt of public assistance benefits she wasn't entitled to. Superior Court Judge Gregory Miller sentenced Lowe to 18 months jail with all 18 months suspended; perform 60 hours of community work service; and ordered restitution in the amount of \$8,510.00. Lowe was placed on formal felony probation for a period of 5 years. As a result of this conviction, Lowe is disqualified from participating in the Alaska Temporary Assistance Program (ATAP) for a period of six months and the Food Stamp Program for twelve months.

The conviction and the sentence stem from an investigation conducted by Fraud Investigator Dean Rogers of the Division of Public Assistance. The investigation revealed that while she was receiving benefits from November 2004 through September 2008, she failed to disclose that her minor child's biological father was also residing in the home and that he earned significant income. In determining eligibility and benefit level for ATAP and Food Stamps 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.