



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE
MIKE HESTRIN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WEBSITE: WWW.RIVCODA.ORG

TWITTER: @RIVCODA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 31, 2017

CONTACT: JOHN HALL
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER
951.955.8662

**OPERATOR OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM
HAS BEEN CHARGED IN AN INSURANCE FRAUD CASE**

RIVERSIDE – A Murrieta woman who operated a licensed alcohol and drug treatment program has been charged by the Riverside County District Attorney’s Office in an insurance fraud case involving a loss of more than \$231,000.

Brooke Elizabeth Best-Freeman, DOB: 3-13-83, is charged with four felony counts of insurance fraud (Penal Code section 550 (a) (6)) and one felony count of solicitation or referral for purposes of insurance fraud (Penal Code section 549) – also known as capping.

The accused “capper” in this case, Robert L. Cramer, DOB: 3-19-68, of Lake Elsinore, is charged with one felony count of solicitation or referral for purposes of insurance fraud.

Best-Freeman turned herself in at the DA’s Office in Riverside today, Wednesday, May 31, 2017, and will be booked at the Robert Presley Detention Center held in lieu of \$231,000 bail. She is scheduled to be arraigned on Friday, June 2, 2017. Cramer had not been arrested as of Wednesday afternoon.

Best-Freeman has operated Best New Life Recovery since 2015. The treatment program – licensed by the state Department of Health Care Services -- initially was located in Murrieta and later relocated to Temecula. In September 2016, the DA’s Office received information from an investigator at Health Net, Inc. about a possible billing fraud case at the treatment program and began an investigation. That investigation involved serving multiple search warrants, multiple interviews, and undercover operations.

Based on evidence obtained during the investigation, it is alleged that Best-Freeman filed fraudulent insurance claims by billing health insurance policies for services not rendered, by misclassifying treatment rendered in order to receive payment, by submitting claims for service she was not licensed to provide, and by submitting forged or altered treatment records in support of health insurance claims. The investigation revealed that Health Net, Inc. paid Best New Life Recovery more than \$195,000 on fraudulent claims and Cigna health insurance paid the treatment program more than \$36,000 in fraudulent claims.

Cramer, the co-defendant in this case, is alleged to have been promised by Best-Freeman to receive a \$2,000 payment if he referred a client to her program and that client stayed in treatment for at least a week.

The case, RIF1701740, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Erika Mulhere of the DA’s Insurance Fraud Team.

###