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NEWS RELEASE

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Day care provider charged with improperly billing State *BCA agents working with DHS uncover scheme*

Saint Paul, MN – The Ramsey County Attorney’s Office on Friday charged Said Jire Kalinle with one count of Theft by Swindle and one count of Identity Theft in connection with the overbilling of Minnesota’s Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) in excess of \$11,000.

Kalinle, 43, of St. Paul, will make his first appearance in Ramsey District Court on October 14.

“These criminal acts hurt our entire community – those who are in need of assistance and those who pay for it – our taxpayers,” said Ramsey County Attorney John Choi. “This is another example of a growing partnership and joint commitment on the part of Ramsey County and the State of Minnesota to combat this type of fraud.”

“We are disappointed that individuals exploit children, their parents, and taxpayers by stealing these valuable funds set aside for quality child care,” said DHS Inspector General Jerry Kerber. “We appreciate the hard work of our partners, and their pursuit of criminal prosecution in this case. We are all committed to aggressively pursuing fraudulent activity in this valuable public program.”

According to the complaint, after receiving multiple tips from former employees at the Mumtaaz Family Daycare Center in St. Paul, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Minnesota Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General launched a joint investigation, including surveillance of the property from February 26 to May 18, 2014.

One employee told investigators that the defendant maintained a “DHS room” at the center, fully equipped with the toys, books, and learning supplies (required by DHS), to be used by teachers and children only when DHS licensing staff was onsite for an inspection.

After reviewing the surveillance footage, as well as records and data from numerous witness interviews, the investigation revealed the following highlights:

- Between February 26, and May 18, 2014, Mumtaaz overbilled the CCAP by at least \$11,400 for days when the center was not even open.
- Mumtaaz also billed CCAP by an additional \$5,280 for children who were not present on days that the center was open for business.

Minnesota's Child Care Assistance Program is administered by counties with oversight by DHS and provides working parents who meet certain income eligibility requirements with affordable child care. CCAP payments are paid directly to child care providers who are required to accurately report a child's attendance.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Note: Ramsey County Attorney John Choi is available to discuss this case. Please call Dennis Gerhardstein if you would like to arrange for an interview.