



Steven K. Young, Director

Former Director of Nursing Charged with Theft, Possession of Controlled Substances

BELLEVUE, IOWA (July 18, 2005) – Tina Marie Kelchen, 28, of Bellevue was charged July 15 with four counts of possession of a controlled substance and one count of second degree theft. The charges stem from incidents in which Kelchen allegedly stole medications from residents at the Mills Valley Care Center, Bellevue, where she was employed as the director of nursing.

The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals' (DIA) Health Facilities Division and the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and the Bellevue Police Department. Kelchen was implicated in the thefts after DIA Health Facilities Surveyors were made aware of the alleged thefts while conducting an unrelated complaint investigation at the facility in April 2005.

Jackson County Attorney John Kies will handle the prosecution. Kelchen will appear for arraignment in Jackson County District Court later this month. Second-degree theft is a Class "D" Felony and is punishable by imprisonment of up to five years and a fine of up to \$7,500.

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