



PRESS RELEASE

Baltimore Pharmacist Sentenced for Felony Medicaid Fraud, Felony Theft, and Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substances

BALTIMORE, MD (May 22, 2019) - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that Susan I. Nwoga, 48, a Burtonsville pharmacist practicing in Baltimore, was sentenced following her [February 13, 2019 conviction](#) for felony Medicaid fraud, felony theft, and distribution of controlled dangerous substances.

Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Marcus Z. Shar sentenced Nwoga to five years of incarceration for the Medicaid fraud and felony theft convictions; 10 years of incarceration, with all but time served suspended, and five years of probation for two counts of distribution; and one month in jail, with all but time served suspended, and five years of supervised probation for the remaining distribution counts. In total, Nwoga will serve five years of incarceration, with an additional 20 years suspended, and five years of supervised probation. Nwoga stole over \$365,000 from the Maryland Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid). A restitution hearing will be held at a later date.

Nwoga owned and operated Poplar Grove Pharmacy, an independent, retail pharmacy located in the 700 block of Poplar Grove Street in Baltimore. Beginning in 2012, Poplar Grove customers presented Nwoga with patently fraudulent prescriptions. Nwoga knowingly and willfully filled the fraudulent prescriptions and dispensed controlled dangerous substances - including oxycodone, alprazolam, clonazepam, and promethazine - to her customers. Nwoga then submitted claims for payment and reimbursement for the filled prescriptions to Medicaid and other health benefit programs.

“Ms. Nwoga purposefully and unlawfully distributed prescription drugs. She cheated the state out of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and she contributed to the deadly epidemic of addiction in our state,” said Attorney General Brian Frosh.

In making today’s announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Assistant Attorneys General Catherine Schuster Pascale and Tracee Orlove Fruman, Investigator Shannon Beatty, Investigator Michael Glenn, Auditor Todd Sheffer, and Paralegal Harouna Boncana for their work on the case. Attorney General Frosh also thanked the Maryland Department of Health’s Office of Controlled Substances Administration and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration for their assistance with the investigation and prosecution of the case.