



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

Public Affairs  
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## **KAYENTA HEALTH CENTER EMPLOYEE INDICTED FOR TAKING BRIBE**

PHOENIX - A Kayenta Health Center emergency room employee has been indicted by a federal grand jury for accepting a bribe. Ella Babbitt, 46, has been charged with one felony count of Receiving a Bribe by a Public Official. Babbitt has been served with a summons to appear in federal court on September 2, 2009, at 10:45 a.m. for arraignment.

The indictment alleges that on May 13, 2009, while working as a medical support assistant at the Indian Health Services' Kayenta Health Center on the Navajo Nation, Babbitt accepted \$6,000 for directing medical air transport business to AeroCare Medical Transport. The indictment further alleges that an investigation was launched in February 2009 into allegations of possible bribery and kickbacks being paid in connection with medical air transport from the Indian Health Services facility at Kayenta.

The indictment reveals that an employee of AeroCare cooperated with investigators from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. Conversations between the AeroCare employee and Babbitt were monitored and recorded, culminating in a meeting held on May 13, 2009, at a hotel in Kayenta at which \$6,000 was allegedly paid to Babbitt. This meeting was both audio and video recorded, according to the indictment.

Receiving a Bribe by a Public Official is punishable by up to 15 years in federal prison, a fine of up to \$250,000 or both. An indictment is the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until a jury determines that a defendant's guilt has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation was conducted by agents of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Investigations. The prosecution is being handled by Frank T. Galati, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-09-8090-PCT-DGC  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-274(Babbitt)

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