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# **News Release**

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## **Duluth woman sentenced for mail fraud**

A 44-year-old Duluth woman was sentenced today in federal court for defrauding the First Witness Child Abuse Resource Center and its clients out of approximately \$120,842.

On April 9 in Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge David Doty sentenced Patricia Ann Miller to 27 months in prison and three years of supervised release on one count of mail fraud. Miller was also ordered to pay restitution. She was charged on Oct. 28, 2008, and pleaded guilty on Nov. 12.

According to Miller's plea agreement, she admitted that from January 2003 through July 2007 she did knowingly execute and attempt to execute a scheme to defraud and to obtain money and property of the center and its clients, and admitted that she did knowingly cause items to be sent by the U.S. Postal Service. The center, located in Duluth, is a non-profit organization involving private and public agencies which are responsible for the investigation, medical intervention and prosecution of child maltreatment cases.

It was the purpose of the scheme, the plea agreement states, to trick First Witness into paying Miller's personal expenses by fraudulently representing the expenses to be business expenses. These misrepresentations were used by Miller to receive reimbursements from the center, which she used to maintain a lifestyle beyond her means.

On June 27, 2006, for the purposes of executing the scheme, Miller allegedly caused the mailing of a credit card payment for charges she incurred in Duluth.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Duluth Police Department and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann M. Anaya.