



**United States Department of Justice  
United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota**

**Frank J. Magill,  
United States Attorney**

David Anderson, Public Affairs Specialist  
(612) 664-5684; cell: (612) 730-2251

# **News Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Duluth woman charged with mail fraud**

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

Patricia Ann Miller was charged Oct. 28 in Minneapolis. Her charging document alleges that from January 2003 through July 2007, Miller knowingly and purposefully executed and attempted to execute a scheme to defraud and to obtain money and property of the center and its clients. It was the purpose of the scheme, the charge alleges, to trick First Witness into paying personal expenses by fraudulently representing the expenses to be business expenses.

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.

If convicted, Miller faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Duluth Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann M. Anaya.

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A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.