



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

**B. Todd Jones,
United States Attorney**

**Jeanne F. Cooney
Director of Community Relations
(612) 664-5611
email: jeanne.cooney@usdoj.gov**

News Release

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Nurse indicted for stealing Vicodin from patients

MINNEAPOLIS – An indictment unsealed earlier today in federal court charges a nurse employed at an assisted living facility with stealing Vicodin from patients. Travis Alan Bourbonnais, age 35, of St. Paul, was charged with one count of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud. The indictment, which was filed on June 21, 2011, was unsealed following Bourbonnais's initial appearance in federal court.

The indictment alleges that from May to August of 2010, Bourbonnais took the patients' Vicodin and created a fraudulent narcotics record book to conceal the missing drugs. The pills stolen often came from inventory intended for destruction or medication orders for amounts in excess of what was truly needed by the patients.

If convicted, Bourbonnais faces a potential maximum penalty of four years in prison. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the United States Food and Drug Administration-Office of Criminal Investigations, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Minneapolis Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.

