



## OFFICE OF THE SAINT LOUIS COUNTY ATTORNEY

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### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Woman charged with welfare fraud, theft**

The St. Louis County Attorney's Office on Monday filed four criminal charges against a Duluth woman accused of receiving public assistance and unemployment insurance while working at a resort.

Andrea H. Pollard, 31, is charged with wrongfully obtaining general assistance, food stamps and medical assistance, as well as theft by swindle. All four crimes are felonies.

According to the criminal complaint:

Pollard applied for financial assistance from the St. Louis County Public Health and Human Services Department in June of 2011. She indicated on her application that she was unemployed, homeless and was not receiving any unemployment income. She was approved for general assistance and began receiving benefits.

She began working for McDonald's and her public assistance was closed in April of 2012. She submitted another application that September. She reported that she was still employed by McDonald's, but was not receiving any hours to work. She was again approved for food support and medical assistance.

In March of last year, the St. Louis County Attorney's Office received a referral from the Fraud Prevention Unit, alleging that the defendant had been working at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd, Minn. The report alleged that she failed to report that income, resulting in an overpayment of public assistance benefits.

Further investigation by the county attorney's office revealed that Pollard received state unemployment benefits from March through August 2011,

November 2011 through March 2012, and October 2012 through December 2012 without reporting it.

Because Pollard failed to report her income from the resort, she received \$5,120.07 in medical assistance benefits and \$1,300 in food support benefits from August 2012 through February 2013 that she was not entitled to. Because she failed to report her unemployment insurance income, she was not eligible to receive General Assistance benefits. She was overpaid \$1,987.20 in general assistance from April 2011 through May 2012.

The total the defendant received fraudulently is \$8,407.27.

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