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PRESS RELEASE

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Former Employee of Georgetown University Hospital Sentenced to Five Months in Prison for Stealing Money from Nonprofit Foundation Based at Hospital

WASHINGTON - Frankie Renee Kennedy, a former employee of Georgetown University Hospital, was sentenced today to five months in prison for her theft of \$86,286 from a nonprofit foundation based at the hospital, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. and Andrew C. Adelman, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service's Washington Field Office announced.

Kennedy, 35, of Largo, Md., pled guilty in November 2010 to one count of interstate transportation of stolen property. She was sentenced this morning in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by the Honorable Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. The judge ordered that Kennedy be placed on three years of supervised release upon completion of her prison term. Kennedy also was ordered to pay full restitution.

According to evidence proffered at the plea hearing, Kennedy worked at Georgetown University Hospital from 1998 until 2010. As part of her duties, Kennedy was responsible for day-to-day operations of the Transplant Institute Foundation, a nonprofit foundation based at the hospital. The foundation's purpose was to provide financial assistance to indigent transplant patients to help the patients pay for medication, housing, and other necessities after surgery.

In December 2005, Kennedy began to write checks to herself from the foundation's bank account, using a doctor's signature stamp without the doctor's permission. She attempted to conceal her fraudulent activity by putting false information in the check stubs and the memo lines of the checks to suggest that the checks were for foundation purposes.

In reality, Kennedy deposited the checks into her personal bank account and used the money for her own purposes. From December 2005 through December 2009, she wrote and deposited in her account a total of 69 checks, totaling \$86,286 of foundation funds.

In announcing today's sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen and Acting Special Agent in Charge Adelman commended the investigative efforts of Special Agent Samuel Messinger of the United States Secret Service. They also praised the work of members of the United States Attorney's Office, including Legal Assistant Jamasee Lucas, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Bryan Seeley, who prosecuted the case.

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