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Husband and Wife Plead Guilty to Defrauding Albany County Department of Social Services and Cohoes Housing Authority

*Co-Defendants Received over \$15,000 in Medicare, Food Stamp and Low
Income Housing Assistance Benefits They Weren't Eligible to Receive*



Hayatullah Amirijan



Lailuma Meherdil

ALBANY, NY- District Attorney P. David Soares announced today that HAYATULLAH AMIRIJAN, 47, of Cohoes, and LAILUMA MEHERDIL, 44, of Cohoes, each pleaded guilty for their roles in defrauding the Albany County Department of Social Services in Medicare, Food

Stamps, and Low Income Housing assistance benefits before the Honorable Thomas A. Breslin in Albany County Supreme Court yesterday morning.

AMIRIJAN pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony, and MEHERDIL pleaded guilty to (1) Count of Welfare Fraud in the Fourth Degree, a Class E Felony.

Between August 1, 2013 and May 31, 2013, MEHERDIL repeatedly failed to report certain income that her and her husband received when filling out applications to receive social services benefits. AMIRIJAN repeatedly signed the applications affirming their accuracy. During this time period, both AMIRIJAN and MEHERDIL received \$10,825.83 in Medicare and Food Stamp benefits, as well as both filled out applications to receive \$5,903.00 in low income housing assistance they were not eligible to receive.

Both AMIRIJAN and MEHERDIL face up to 6 months in the Albany County Correctional Facility, to be followed by 5 years of Felony Probation when sentenced on May 6, 2014.

Additionally, both co-defendants must each pay \$5,903.00 in restitution to the Cohoes Housing Authority and MEHERDIL must pay \$10,825.83 in restitution to the Albany County Department of Social Services.

Assistant District Attorney Jessica Blain-Lewis of the Financial Crimes Unit is handling the prosecution of both cases.

For more information please contact Cecilia Walsh (518) 275-4710.

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