



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**EVENT: Indictment**

**Defendant: Elena Szilvagy**

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**WOMAN INDICTED FOR FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINING U.S. CITIZENSHIP**

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Elena Szilvagy, 56, formerly of Clarkston, Michigan appeared in federal court today in Detroit, Michigan to answer to an indictment charging her with procuring her United States citizenship by fraud, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today.

Szilvagy is currently serving a 48-month federal sentence for her conviction of conspiracy to commit health care fraud and mail fraud. When she is finished serving that sentence, Szilvagy will begin to serve a 31-month sentence for her convictions of conspiracy to defraud the United States and conspiracy to commit obstruction of justice and to obstruct a criminal health care fraud investigation. These two convictions stem from Szilvagy's ownership and operation of a health care company in Southfield, Michigan that defrauded Medicare of over \$800,000. Szilvagy's newest charge stems from her failure to disclose this illegal activity in her application to become a United States citizen. Szilvagy faces an additional sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine if convicted of naturalization fraud.

In announcing the indictment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended

the work of the Special Agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who conducted the investigation. "My office in coordination with ICE will continue to vigorously and systematically pursue those who have obtained their U.S. citizenship or other immigration benefits unlawfully," said United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy. "The notion that a criminal immigrant can rest easy once she gets her citizenship papers is a false assumption indeed," Mr. Murphy emphasized. "The Department of Justice and ICE will utilize every criminal, civil, and administrative remedy to ensure that those who obtain U.S. citizenship under false pretenses will not benefit from their dishonesty."

Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Brian M. Moskowitz, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement who stated that, "becoming an American citizen is privilege not a right." "We will not tolerate those who pledge their allegiance to this nation knowing that the oath they took was achieved through lies and fraud. ICE Special Agents will work with our partners in the U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure that those privileges are removed."

The case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Mark Jebson.