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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 2, 2012

## PRESS RELEASE

**Edwardsville**—A Madison County grand jury indicted three people today in connection with separate financial exploitation cases involving elderly victims.

Collinsville residents Romayne Y. Pike (d.o.b. 9/17/31) and her daughter Diane M. Moore (d.o.b. 6/17/58) were each charged with two counts of Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Person, a Class 1 Felony. The victim, a 91-year-old female, is a resident at the Fountains II Assisted Living Facility in Troy, Illinois. The defendants, her cousins, have had Power of Attorney since 2005. During that time, police allege that they stole \$462,686 belonging to the victim. Police were contacted in October 2010 after an employee at the Fountains noticed financial discrepancies. Investigators believe that the money was spent on various items, including bills, vehicles and property.

In the second case, the Illinois State Police were contacted, also in October 2011, by the Alhambra Care Center, in Alhambra, Illinois after becoming suspicious over unpaid bills. The victim in this case, a 64-year-old female, had given her Power of Attorney to Marjorie L. Phelps (d.o.b. 10/29/48) of Marine, Illinois in 2003. Phelps had asked the victim to move in with her and her family following the death of the victim's husband in 2003. Investigators believe that Phelps was having financial problems when she started stealing the victim's money. It is estimated that \$290,148 has been stolen from the victim. Phelps was charged with two counts of Unlawful Financial Exploitation of a Disabled Person, two counts of Theft over \$100,000 and two counts of Unlawful Financial Exploitation of an Elderly Person, all Class 1 Felonies.

"It's always disheartening to uncover fraud at this level. Victims put their trust in these individuals and they turn around and betray that trust with deceit and lies," stated State's Attorney Tom Gibbons. "We must continue to protect our most vulnerable citizens along with the security that they and their families worked their whole lives to build."

Maximum penalty for a Class 1 Felony is 4-15 years in prison. Bond was set at \$150,000 for all three defendants who are not in custody at this time.

These charges, as well as the statements made herein, are based upon probable cause. The defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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