



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Circuit Court Orders Joseph Schwartz to Report to
Arkansas Department of Corrections by December 29**

Griffin: 'Schwartz still owes the State of Arkansas nine months of incarceration per his plea deal, and I am pleased that the Court has ordered him to report to the Department of Corrections to complete his incarceration'

LITTLE ROCK – Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement announcing that Joseph Schwartz has been ordered to report to the Arkansas Department of Corrections by December 29:

“Joseph Schwartz, who pleaded guilty earlier this year to one felony count of Medicaid fraud and one felony count of Attempt to Evade or Defeat Tax, has been ordered by the Circuit Court of Pulaski County to report to the Arkansas Department of Corrections by 2 p.m. Monday, December 29.

“Schwartz’s plea deals included 12 months’ prison time for his state crimes, but his agreement allowed him to serve his time in a federal facility concurrent with a separate sentence on federal charges. Schwartz served 90 days in a federal facility before he was pardoned of his federal crimes last month.

“Schwartz still owes the State of Arkansas nine months of incarceration per his plea deal, and I am pleased that the Court has ordered him to report to the Department of Corrections to complete his incarceration.

“Schwartz owned Skyline Healthcare, LLC, which operated multiple nursing homes in Arkansas. These facilities received Medicaid payments for residents in their care. Schwartz submitted false and misleading information that impacted the per diem rates paid to the facilities.

“He also failed to pay insurance premiums for employees, neglected grocery bills—forcing staff to buy food for residents—and paid himself as an employee in multiple facilities. Two of his Arkansas nursing homes were later placed into receivership by the Arkansas Department of Human Services.

“In addition, Schwartz withheld taxes from employees’ paychecks but failed to file required documents or remit those withholdings to the Arkansas Department of Finance & Administration.

“Schwartz didn’t just take advantage of our vulnerable population, he also preyed on Arkansans who worked in his facilities. By submitting false information to manipulate Medicaid payments and failing to turn over employee tax withholdings, he betrayed the trust placed in him as an employer and the owner of those nursing homes.

“The status of Schwartz’s federal case has no bearing on his obligations to the State, and it is completely appropriate that he be mandated to serve out the remainder of his sentence.”

About Attorney General Tim Griffin

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state’s 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas’s Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin is currently an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard and holds the rank of colonel. Griffin served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General’s (JAG) Corps for more than 28 years. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations

Detachment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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