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PRYOR ANNOUNCES CONVICTION OF MILLBROOK CHIROPRACTOR AND WIFE FOR TAX FRAUD

(MONTGOMERY)—Attorney General Bill Pryor announced that a Millbrook chiropractor and his wife have been convicted of state charges of tax fraud. Kenneth L. Jones, 55, and Glenda Jones, 52, each pleaded guilty this morning in Elmore County Circuit Court to one count of filing fraudulent state income tax returns.

Investigators from the Alabama Department of Revenue and the Attorney General's Office examined the Jones' business records and found evidence that they had under-reported their business income by \$76,657 from 1994 to 1996 and owe the State of Alabama in excess of \$7,000 for unpaid tax, interest, and fraud penalties. Mrs. Jones served as an office manager in her husband's chiropractic office. An Elmore County grand jury returned indictments against the two on October 6, 2000 and they were arrested on October 20. Immediately following their guilty plea today, Judge Ben Fuller sentenced them to six months in jail, which was suspended, ordered them to serve one year of probation and to pay a fine of \$100 and court costs associated with the prosecution of the case.

"No one wants to pay more taxes than they have to, but it is not fair to the honest citizens of Alabama who do pay their fair share to let others get away with lying and avoiding taxes they rightly owe," Pryor said. "It is a crime to misrepresent one's income to the state to evade paying taxes, and my office stands committed with the State Department of Revenue to investigate and prosecute those who do so. I want to thank the Department of Revenue for its vigilance, particularly Director of Investigations Charles E. Crumbley and Special Agent Robert L. McVay Jr., who investigated this matter along with Special Agent Vicki Wilson of my office. I also commend Assistant Attorneys General Matt Hart and Nancy Kirby of my Public Corruption and White Collar Crime Division for their outstanding prosecution."

Commenting on the conviction, Crumbley said, "Income tax revenues are a major contributor to the Alabama Education Trust Fund--the funding source for one of our state's most important responsibilities, the education of our children. Although in some cases, discovery of noncompliance may not be immediate, it is eventual. The cost of tax offenses far outweighs any chance of personal gain. It is a no-win situation, and certainly not worth it."