

Former area healthcare worker enters plea

(KNZA)--A former nurse aide at a Highland healthcare facility facing multiple charges has entered into a plea agreement, canceling a jury trial that had been set next month.

Janelle Lynn Sakakihara, of Atchison, recently pleaded no contest in Doniphan County District Court to two felony counts of mistreatment of a dependent adult and a misdemeanor count of Medicaid fraud.

In exchange for the plea, two additional counts were dismissed.

Sentencing was set for November 6.

According to the criminal complaint, the offenses took place between September 27-29 of last year while Sakakihara was employed at the Highland Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center.

She was among ten individuals in seven counties charged last September as part of a statewide enforcement sweep by the Kansas Attorney General's Office.

Sakakihara remains free on bond.

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