

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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