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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THREE WOMEN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FRAUD

Three Idaho women, two from Ada County and one from Adams County have been sentenced to prison for public assistance fraud and ordered to pay thousands of dollars in restitution.

Rusty Williamson, 35, of New Meadows in Adams County, was sentenced to six years in prison, one and half years fixed, for fraudulently obtaining Food Stamps and cash payments from an assistance program. She also pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four years for a felony drug count. The sentence will be served at the same time as the term for public assistance fraud. She was directed to pay more than \$7,200 in restitution for the public assistance fraud.

Chantelle Cole, 30, of Meridian was sentenced to five years in prison, two years fixed, for a single count of public assistance fraud. Cole pleaded guilty to illegally obtaining Food Stamps. She was ordered to pay \$10,000 in restitution.

Eagle resident Kori Lane Batt, 29, was charged with public assistance fraud and forgery and pleaded guilty to two counts of forgery. She was sentenced to seven years in prison, two years fixed, and ordered to pay \$3,600 in restitution for the public assistance fraud for illegally obtaining Food Stamps.

“This is part of our continuing effort to make sure that tax dollars are being properly accounted for,” says Mond Warren, chief of the Bureau of Audits & Investigations for the Department of Health &

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Welfare. “The vast majority of people who receive state assistance are truly in need. Food Stamps and other programs help them get through difficult times. There are a few people who obtain assistance illegally. Our goal is to make sure that those who violate the fraud laws are punished and forced to repay the money they have stolen.”

The fraud arrests and convictions were the result of a cooperative effort between Department of Health & Welfare fraud investigators, the Adams and Ada County Sheriffs’ Departments and their respective prosecuting attorneys.

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(Editors: for additional information or an interview, contact Ross Mason at 208-334-0693)