



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 26, 2015

Media contact
Joan Wehrle
Joan.Wehrle@med.ohio.gov
614-728-3684

State Medical Board of Ohio Investigation Results in Human Trafficking Convictions

Columbus, Ohio – On August 24, 2015, a Delaware County jury found Estella and Qing Xu guilty of engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity and eight counts of promoting prostitution. Each of these charges carried human trafficking specifications. The sisters were also found guilty of three counts each of money laundering and practicing medicine without a license.

The State Medical Board – which also licenses massage therapists in the state – provided significant support in the investigation, and verified that the women working at the facilities were not licensed by the Board. Medical Board investigators also reported indicators of possible human trafficking, and provided this information to the task force working the investigation. It is a fifth degree felony to practice medicine (which includes the practice of massage therapy) without a license in Ohio.

The convictions are the result of an extensive investigation that included representatives from the State Medical Board of Ohio, the Central Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, the Columbus Police Department, the Powell Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, and the Delaware County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by the Delaware County Prosecutor's Office and the Franklin County Prosecutor's Office.

###