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## **Attorney General Griffin Announces Arrest of Faulkner County Couple for Fraud and Exploitation**

*Griffin: 'It is heartbreaking that this couple would prey on an elderly person in need'*

**LITTLE ROCK** – Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement announcing the arrest of a Faulkner County married couple after an investigation by his office’s Medicaid Fraud Control Unit:

“Robert Johnson, 58, and Tina Cates Johnson, 56, of Mayflower were arrested by the Faulkner County Sheriff’s Office on charges related to their exploitation of an elderly victim. Tina Johnson took control of an elderly acquaintance’s finances last year under the auspices of helping the acquaintance move into an assisted living facility. But both Robert and Tina then used the victim’s money for various purchases, including a brand-new car and a brand-new RV.

“It is heartbreaking that this couple would prey on an elderly person in need for the couple’s own selfish gain. I am grateful to Special Agent Laura Glover in my office for her tireless work on this case, and I appreciate the invaluable assistance of the Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs’ Office of Inspector General and the Faulkner County Sheriff’s Office.”

Tina Johnson is charged with Exploitation of a Vulnerable Person, a Class B Felony, and Financial Identity Fraud, a Class B Felony. Robert Johnson is charged with Abuse of an

Endangered or Impaired Person (Exploitation), a Class B Felony. Their cases will be prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General Gabrielle Davis-Jones in cooperation with Carol Crews, Prosecuting Attorney for the Twentieth Judicial District of Arkansas.

### **About Attorney General Tim Griffin**

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin is currently an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard and holds the rank of colonel. Griffin served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 28 years. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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