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## CRIMINAL CHARGES DISMISSED AGAINST SPEECH THERAPIST

### State of Georgia Drops Charges on Eve of Trial

Atlanta, GA (March 11, 2014) – Approximately one week before trial, the State of Georgia has dismissed all criminal charges against **Ruth Ellen Roberts**, a speech language pathologist who practices in Monroe, Georgia, bringing an end to the nearly five-year-old case that has been pending in Walton County Superior Court.

In an order entered March 6, 2014, Chief Judge John Ott approved the State's request that the charges be dropped. "I'm gratified that the case has been dismissed," Ms. Roberts said. "There are so many children in our State who cannot perform basic daily functions and who rely on Medicaid to receive treatment."

Ms. Roberts owns and operates Children and Adult Therapy Services, Inc., in Monroe, Georgia, where she provides speech therapy services to individuals suffering from cerebral palsy, autism, and other developmental disabilities that adversely affect speech and language processing and other motor skills. The vast majority of Ms. Roberts' patients are children from low-income families who are unable to travel to receive needed specialized care. The State alleged in a 2009 indictment that Ms. Roberts received payments from Medicaid for services that were not provided.

The State's decision to drop all charges represents an acknowledgement of the lack of evidence to support the allegations made against Ms. Roberts. "On multiple occasions, long before this decision to dismiss the charges, we pointed out the problems with the State's distorted version of the facts," said Ms. Roberts' attorney Brian F. McEvoy, a partner with Chilivis, Cochran, Larkins & Bever, LLP in Atlanta. "We were prepared to go to trial and prove that Ms. Roberts never engaged in any inappropriate conduct."

### About Chilivis, Cochran, Larkins & Bever, LLP

With offices in Atlanta and Savannah, Chilivis Cochran provides experienced representation in complex legal matters in both State and Federal courts in the areas of white collar criminal defense, business litigation, and health care.

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