

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 21, 2021

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**Attorney General Balderas Announces Indictment of Former VIP Salon Owner
Who Unlawfully Performed 'Vampire Facial' Medical Procedures**

Albuquerque, NM - Today, Attorney General Hector Balderas announced the indictment of Maria de Lourdes Ramos de Ruiz, former owner of VIP Salon, on 24 felony charges, including: practicing medicine without a license, racketeering, fraud, money laundering, and tax evasion. In 2019, it was revealed that at least two of the salon's clients contracted HIV and had received so-called "Vampire Facials," a medical procedure involving Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) therapy. This resulted in the Office of the Attorney General's investigation of the business and its owner, whose indictment was filed Monday.

"Individuals who jeopardize the health and safety of New Mexican families must be held accountable," said Attorney General Balderas. "We look forward to presenting this case at trial."

Apart from the case, Attorney General Balderas has advised that anyone who has received a "Vampire Facial" or PRP therapy and believes that they may have been exposed to a communicable disease or received treatment from an unlicensed practitioner should contact his office for information on resources available. The Attorney General recommends that anyone who is planning to undergo PRP therapy make sure that they are receiving the procedure from a properly licensed medical professional and that the establishment is using universal precautions to sterilize equipment and prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens.

Consumers should ask questions of providers of PRP therapy or "Vampire Facials" prior to undergoing the procedure. Consumers have the right to know:

1. Whether or not the establishment uses universal precautions - similar to tattoo parlors or a medical facility.
2. What precautions are utilized?
3. Who will be performing the procedure?
4. Will it be performed by a licensed medical professional? Cosmetologists and estheticians are not licensed to conduct medical procedures. At a minimum one must be qualified as a phlebotomist to draw blood, and if injections are administered below the subdermis, a nurse or physician must perform the procedure.
5. Does the establishment have a medical director? If so, what are their qualifications? Is it a physician or a nurse practitioner?

If you believe that you may have been exposed to a communicable disease, such as HIV, you can visit the New Mexico Department of Health's website at

<https://nmhealth.org/about/phd/idb/std/> to find a Public Health Office near you that provides screening and treatments services such as:

- Free, confidential examination and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases (STD).
- Confidential counseling and treatment of contacts (partners) to persons with STDs.
- Free, anonymous testing and counseling for HIV.

If you have received or attempted to receive a “vampire facial”, and you think that the individual was not properly licensed or that the procedure was not done properly, you may file a complaint with the New Mexico Office of the Attorney General online at <https://www.nmag.gov/>.

This case was investigated by and will be prosecuted by the Office of the Attorney General. The public is reminded that the accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

A copy of Monday’s indictment is attached.

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ENDORSED
FILED IN MY OFFICE THIS

APR 19 2021

CLERK DISTRICT COURT

Malcolm Smith

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
COUNTY OF BERNALILLO
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

STATE OF NEW MEXICO,

Plaintiff,

v.

No. **D 0202 CR 2021 00745**
NMAGO#: 201905-00043

MARIA DE LOURDES RAMOS DE RUIZ,

DOB:

SSN:

ADDRESS:

Defendant.

JOSEPH MONTANO

CRIMES CHARGED

1. RACKETEERING (0897)
2. FRAUD (\$500 TO \$2,500) (4530)
3. PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE (1838)
4. PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE (1838)
5. PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE (1838)
6. PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE (1838)
7. PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE (1838)
8. MONEY LAUNDERING (PROMOTIONAL) (\$10,000 TO \$50,000) (2585)
9. MONEY LAUNDERING (PROMOTIONAL) (\$10,000 TO \$50,000) (2585)
10. MONEY LAUNDERING (AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS) (\$10,000 TO \$50,000) (2585)
11. MONEY LAUNDERING (AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS) (\$10,000 TO \$50,000) (2585)
12. MONEY LAUNDERING (AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS) (\$10,000 TO \$50,000) (2585)
13. MONEY LAUNDERING (AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS) (\$10,000 TO \$50,000) (2585)
14. ATTEMPTS TO EVADE OR DEFEAT TAX (1941)
15. ATTEMPTS TO EVADE OR DEFEAT TAX (1941)
16. ATTEMPTS TO EVADE OR DEFEAT TAX (1941)
17. ATTEMPTS TO EVADE OR DEFEAT TAX (1941)
18. WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES (1944)
19. WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES (1944)
20. WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES (1944)
21. WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES (1944)

- 22. WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES (1944)
- 23. WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES (1944)
- 24. WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES (1944)

GRAND JURY INDICTMENT

COUNT 1: RACKETEERING [0897]

On or between the 1st day of January, 2016 and the 1st day of September, 2019, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, directly or indirectly, did use or invest the proceeds, or any part thereof, derived, directly or indirectly, from a pattern of racketeering activity in which the defendant participated, a second-degree felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-42-4(A).

COUNT 2: FRAUD (OVER \$500 BUT NOT MORE THAN \$2,500) [4530]

On or between the 24th day of October, 2017 and the 28th day of November, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, by any words or conduct, misrepresented a fact to C.A., intending to deceive or cheat C.A. and because of the misrepresentation and C.A.'s reliance on it, the defendant obtained a monetary fee in exchange for various medical procedures, which had a market value over \$500 but less than \$2,500, and belonged to someone other than the defendant, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-16-6.

COUNT 3: PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE [1838]

That on or between the 2nd day of May, 2018 and the 5th day September, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant practiced medicine or attempted to practice medicine without first complying with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act and without being the holder of a license entitling her to practice medicine in New Mexico by performing the platelet-rich plasma injection therapy operation upon C.A., a fourth-degree felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 61-6-20.

COUNT 4: PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE [1838]

That on or about the 21st day of May, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant practiced medicine or attempted to practice medicine without first complying with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act and without being the holder of a license entitling her to practice medicine in New Mexico by performing the platelet-rich plasma injection therapy operation upon E.Q., a fourth-degree felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 61-6-20.

COUNT 5: PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE [1838]

That on or between the 24th day of October, 2017 and the 3rd day of October, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant practiced medicine or attempted to practice medicine without first complying with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act and without being the holder of a license entitling her to practice medicine in New Mexico by performing the cryolipolysis procedure upon C.A., a fourth-degree felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 61-6-20.

COUNT 6: PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE [1838]

That on or between the 13th day of March, 2018 and the 28th day of April, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant practiced medicine or attempted to practice medicine without first complying with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act and without being the holder of a license entitling her to practice medicine in New Mexico by performing intravenous stem cell therapy upon C.A., a fourth-degree felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 61-6-20.

COUNT 7: PRACTICING MEDICINE WITHOUT A LICENSE [1838]

That on or between the 27th day of June, 2018 and 28th day of November, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant practiced medicine or attempted to practice medicine without first complying with the provisions of the Medical Practice Act and without being the holder of a license entitling her to practice medicine in New Mexico by performing botulinum toxin injection therapy upon C.A., a fourth-degree felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 61-6-20.

COUNT 8: MONEY LAUNDERING (PROMOTIONAL) (OVER \$10,000) [2585]

That on or between the 1st day of October, 2018 and the 6th day of May, 2019, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did conduct, structure, engage in or participate in a financial transaction that involved property that was the proceeds of an unlawful activity for the purpose of committing or furthering the commission of any other specified unlawful activity and the illegal financial transaction involved over \$10,000 but not more than \$50,000, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4(A)(2).

COUNT 9: MONEY LAUNDERING (PROMOTIONAL) (OVER \$10,000) [2585]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2016 and the 30th day of September, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did conduct, structure, engage in or participate in a financial transaction that involved property that was the proceeds of an unlawful activity for the purpose of committing or furthering the commission of any other specified unlawful activity and the illegal financial transaction involved over \$10,000 but not more than \$50,000, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4(A)(2).

**COUNT 10: MONEY LAUNDERING (AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS)
(OVER \$10,000) [2585]**

That on or between the 31st day of October, 2016 and the 10th day of November, 2016, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did conduct, structure, engage in or participate in a financial transaction that involved property that was the proceeds of an unlawful activity, knowing that the financial transaction was designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the property or to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under state or federal law and the illegal financial transaction involved over \$10,000 but not more than \$50,000, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4(A)(1).

**COUNT 11: MONEY LAUNDERING (AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS)
(OVER \$10,000) [2585]**

That on or between the 20th day of January, 2017 and the 21st day of January, 2017, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did conduct, structure, engage in or participate in a financial transaction that involved property that was the proceeds of an unlawful activity, knowing that the financial transaction was designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the property or to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under state or federal law and the illegal financial transaction involved over \$10,000 but not more than \$50,000, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4(A)(1).

**COUNT 12: MONEY LAUNDERING (AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS)
(OVER \$10,000) [2585]**

That on or between the 19th day of May, 2017 and the 22nd day of May, 2017, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant did conduct, structure, engage in or participate in a financial transaction that involved property that was the proceeds of an unlawful activity, knowing that the financial transaction was designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the property or to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under state or federal law and the illegal financial transaction involved over \$10,000 but not more than \$50,000, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4(A)(1).

**COUNT 13: MONEY LAUNDERING (AVOIDING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS)
(OVER \$10,000) [2585]**

That on or between the 6th day of November, 2019 and the 10th day of November, 2019, the above-named defendant did conduct, structure, engage in or participate in a financial transaction that involved property that was the proceeds of an unlawful activity, knowing that the financial transaction was designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the property or to avoid a transaction reporting requirement under state or federal law and the illegal financial transaction involved over \$10,000 but not more than \$50,000, a fourth-degree felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 30-51-4(A)(1).

COUNT 14: ATTEMPTS TO EVADE OR DEFEAT TAX [1941]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2019 and the 31st day of December, 2019, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant willfully attempted to evade or defeat any tax or the payment thereof, specifically her annual personal-income taxes payable to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-72.

COUNT 15: ATTEMPTS TO EVADE OR DEFEAT TAX [1941]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2018 and the 31st day of December, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant willfully attempted to evade or defeat any tax or the payment thereof, specifically her annual personal-income taxes payable to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-72.

COUNT 16: ATTEMPTS TO EVADE OR DEFEAT TAX [1941]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2017 and the 31st day of December, 2017, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant willfully attempted to evade or defeat any tax or the payment thereof, specifically her annual personal-income taxes payable to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-72.

COUNT 17: ATTEMPTS TO EVADE OR DEFEAT TAX [1941]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2016 and the 31st day of December, 2016, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant willfully attempted to evade or defeat any tax or the payment thereof, specifically her annual personal-income taxes payable to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-72.

COUNT 18: WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES [1944]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2019 and the 30th day of June, 2019, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, while required to collect, account for, and pay over a tax imposed by the State of New Mexico, did willfully, with the intent to defraud, fail to collect or truthfully account for and pay over the gross-receipts taxes due to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-71.3.

COUNT 19: WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES [1944]

That on or between the 1st day of July, 2018 and the 31st day of December, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, while required to collect, account for, and pay over a tax imposed by the State of New Mexico, did willfully, with the intent to defraud, fail to collect or truthfully account for and pay over the gross-receipts taxes due to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-71.3.

COUNT 20: WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES [1944]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2018 and the 30th day of June, 2018, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, while required to collect, account for, and pay over a tax imposed by the State of New Mexico, did willfully, with the intent to defraud, fail to collect or truthfully account for and pay over the gross-receipts taxes due to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-71.3.

COUNT 21: WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES [1944]

That on or between the 1st day of July, 2017 and the 31st day of December, 2017, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, while required to collect, account for, and pay over a tax imposed by the State of New Mexico, did willfully, with the intent to defraud, fail to collect or truthfully account for and pay over the gross-receipts taxes due to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-71.3.

COUNT 22: WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES [1944]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2017 and the 30th day of June, 2017, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, while required to collect, account for, and pay over a tax imposed by the State of New Mexico, did willfully, with the intent to defraud, fail to collect or truthfully account for and pay over the gross-receipts taxes due to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-71.3.

COUNT 23: WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES [1944]

That on or between the 1st day of July, 2016 and the 31st day of December, 2016, in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, while required to collect, account for, and pay over a tax imposed by the State of New Mexico, did willfully, with the intent to defraud, fail to collect or truthfully account for and pay over the gross-receipts taxes due to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-71.3.

COUNT 24: WILLFUL FAILURE TO COLLECT AND PAY OVER TAXES [1944]

That on or between the 1st day of January, 2016 and the 30th day of June, 2016 in Bernalillo County, New Mexico, the above-named defendant, while required to collect, account for, and pay over a tax imposed by the State of New Mexico, did willfully, with the intent to defraud, fail to collect or truthfully account for and pay over the gross-receipts taxes due to the State of New Mexico, a special-penalty felony, contrary to NMSA 1978, Section 7-1-71.3.

The names of the witnesses upon whose testimony this Indictment is based are as follows:

- NMAG Special Agent Gregory Buhl
- Dr. Steven Jenkusky

I hereby certify that the foregoing Indictment is a True Bill.

[Signature]
FOREPERSON

4/16/21
DATE

APPROVED:

[Signature]
Jesse Pecoraro
Assistant Attorney General

4/16/2021
DATE

CASE INFORMATION

NMAGO FILE#: 201905-00043
MET.CT.#: n/a
LEA/RPT#: NMAGO/201905-00043
AAG: Jesse Pecoraro / Zach Jones
DOB: 12/26/1961
SSN: 585-71-0857
ADDRESS: 5044 Viking Coral, San Antonio, Texas 78244

BOOKING/ARREST DATE: n/a
BOOKING/ARREST#: n/a
STN: n/a
DEF. ATTY: Raul A. Lopez, 1311 5th St. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF DEFENDANT:

Height: 5'03"
Weight: 130 lbs
Race: Hispanic
Gender: Female
Eye Color: Brown
Hair Color: Brown/Blonde

KP

PENALTIES

Count 1: Racketeering, a second-degree felony offense with a basic sentence of nine years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$10,000.

Count 2: Fraud (\$500 to \$2,500), a fourth-degree felony offense with a basic sentence of 1.5 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

Counts 3 - 7: Practicing Medicine without a License, a fourth-degree felony offense with a basic sentence of 1.5 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

Counts 8 - 9: Money Laundering (Promotional) (\$10,000 to \$50,000), a fourth-degree felony offense with a basic sentence of 1.5 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

Counts 10 - 13: Money Laundering (Avoiding Reporting Requirements) (\$10,000 to \$50,000), a fourth-degree felony offense with a basic sentence of 1.5 years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

Counts 14 - 17: Attempts to Evade or Defeat Tax, a special-penalty felony offense with a basic sentence of a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$10,000, or imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than five years, or both such fine and imprisonment, together with the costs of prosecution.

Counts 18 - 24: Willful Failure to Collect and Pay Taxes, a special-penalty felony offense with a basic sentence of a fine of not more than \$5,000 or imprisonment for a period of not less than six months and not more than three years, or both, together with the costs of prosecution.