

MEDIA Release

Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals * Lucas State Office Building * Des Moines, IA

For Immediate Release

For Information Contact:

David Werning (515) 281-7376

david.werning@dia.iowa.gov

Laptop Stolen from State Vehicle

DES MOINES, IA (October 8, 2013) – A laptop computer used by a health facilities surveyor from the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) has been stolen from the surveyor's car. The laptop was used by the surveyor to conduct inspections as well as complaint and dependent adult abuse investigations at long-term care facilities primarily located in southwest Iowa.

The Department acknowledges that theft of the laptop could potentially constitute a breach of information. Personnel in DIA's Health Facilities Division are currently examining records from the surveyor's past inspections and investigations to determine what sensitive or personal data potentially may have been on the stolen computer.

Information collected by surveyors generally focuses on residents' physical and mental health. Personal information about a resident, such as his or her date of birth and social security number, also may be collected as part of the survey process. When conducting a complaint or dependent adult abuse investigation, surveyors may ask for additional information, such as a staff member's licensure status and number. As appropriate, DIA will notify the facilities, their staffs, and residents impacted by the theft.

DIA is working with the State of Iowa's Information Technology Office to identify and notify those individuals from whom personal information may have been collected. The Council Bluffs Police Department, too, is investigating the theft.

###

StolenLaptop_10082013