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Sheffield woman sentenced for embezzlement

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A former employee of Pines Rehabilitation and Health Center in Lyndon will spend 30 days in prison for embezzling nearly \$40,000 from 22 different residents, the Vermont Attorney General's office announced today.

Tonya Beer, 31, was sentenced on Friday in the Caledonia County District Court, nearly two months after a plea agreement was reached.

The Medicaid Fraud and Residential Abuse Unit of the Attorney General's Office charged that Beer, as the administrator of the resident trust account of the Pines Rehabilitation Center, embezzled more than \$37,234 by writing herself 198 checks between January 2003 and May 2006.

Beer was sentenced to between four and seven years in prison, all but 30 days of which has been suspended, officials said. As part of her probation, Beer will be required to perform 30 days of community service, avoid working where she would handle client funds, and she must disclose her conviction to any future employer.

Beer also is restricted from working with vulnerable adults and entering the Pines unless invited by an administrator.