

Smile Magic Dental Clinics Settle Texas Medicaid Fraud Allegations for \$4.5 Million

June 30, 2016 *Rusty Tucker of The Law Offices of James R. Tucker is pleased to announce a qui tam lawsuit it filed has resulted in the largest recovery to date in a Texas dental Medicaid fraud case.*

Four dental clinics of the Texas Smile Magic chain have agreed to settle Medicaid Fraud charges for a total of \$4.5 million. The four clinics that will pay the record-setting settlement include: Smile Magic of Denton, PLLC; Smile Magic of Lewisville, PLLC; Smile Magic of Garland, PLLC; and Smile Magic of El Paso, PLLC.

Josh LaFountain, represented by The Law Offices of James R. Tucker, P.C., blew the whistle on Smile Magic. To protect Texas children and taxpayers, Mr. LaFountain first reported to Texas officials that Smile Magic was allegedly engaging in several acts of misconduct that violated the rules of the Texas Medicaid program and later filed a qui tam lawsuit under the Texas Medicaid Fraud Prevention Act (TMFPA).

It is alleged that Smile Magic defrauded the Texas Medicaid program by performing unnecessary or excessive dental services on young children, billed Medicaid for dental services never-performed, targeted young Medicaid beneficiaries through improper financial incentives, and used paid recruiters to round up poor kids to be used to commit Medicaid fraud.