

HOSPICE CARE FRAUD

Most of the patients in hospice facilities are beneficiaries of the federal Medicare program, which means that false claims for services rendered to these patients are actionable under the False Claims Act (“FCA”). Qui tam whistleblower lawsuits under the FCA have become increasingly common in addressing fraud by hospice facilities. Hospice facilities can defraud the Government in a variety of ways.

In hospice care, Medicare beneficiaries are entitled to care only if they have a terminal prognosis of six months or less. One way that hospice facilities violate the FCA and commit hospice fraud is by submitting claims to Medicare for patients who were not terminally ill when admitted and therefore did not qualify for hospice care. They may be liable under the FCA when they bill Medicare or Medicaid for higher levels of services than are appropriate for the patients, or when they fail to provide medically necessary care. A facility may also be billing Medicare for services rendered to patients who do not meet Medicare’s eligibility requirements for the type of services that are being billed.

Blow the Whistle on Hospice Care Fraud

Individuals with knowledge of fraud committed by hospice care companies may be able to blow the whistle on this kind of fraud using the FCA, the TMFPA and other whistleblower reward programs. Whistleblowers play a critical role in bringing this type of hospice care fraud to light and holding wrongdoers accountable when they try to cheat the system.

To talk with me about your hospice care fraud case, call my Dallas law offices at 214-505-0097 or contact me online. Consultations with a Dallas County Hospice Care Fraud attorney are free and confidential. I handle these types of cases on a contingent fee basis, meaning you owe me no legal fees or expenses unless I obtain a recovery for you.

EXAMPLE OF WHISTLEBLOWER/RELATOR FEES AWARDED AND SETTLEMENTS IN HOSPICE CARE FRAUD CASES

In February of 2015, the Whistleblowers received an award of \$680,000 when Good Shepherd Hospice Inc. and Related Entities providing services in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Texas agreed to pay **\$4 million** to settle claims that the companies submitted false claims to federal health care programs. *See* Press Release, Office of Pub. Affairs, U.S. Dep’t of Justice, United States

Settles False Claims Act Suit Against Good Shepherd Hospice Inc. and Related Entities (Feb. 6, 2015), <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2015/February/15-civ-150.html>.