

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
NORTHERN DISTRICT *of* TEXAS

HOME ABOUT NEWS MEET THE U.S. ATTORNEY DIVISIONS PROGRAMS EMPLOYMENT CONTACT US

Home » News » Press Release

NEWS

Woman Convicted At Trial For Role In Nearly \$3 Million Health Care Fraud Scheme Involving The Operation Of Euless Healthcare Corp. Is Sentenced To 72 Months In Federal Prison

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2013

Defendant Also Ordered to Pay \$830,000 in Restitution

DALLAS — Comfort Gates, 48, was sentenced this afternoon, by U.S District Judge David C. Godbey, to 72 months in federal prison and ordered to pay \$830,000 in restitution following her conviction at trial in April 2013 on charges stemming from her involvement in the operation of Euless Healthcare Corporation (EHC) and Medic Healthcare Incorporated (Medic). Gates is one six defendants convicted in the conspiracy. Judge Godbey ordered that Gates, a current resident of Houston, surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on January 13, 2014. Today's announcement was made by U.S. Attorney Sarah R. Saldaña of the Northern District of Texas.

Gates, an employee of Medic, and coconspirator Godwin Umotong, 58, an employee of EHC and Medic, were each convicted at trial on one count of conspiracy to commit health care fraud. Gates was also convicted on two counts of health care fraud and Umotong was also convicted on five counts of health care fraud. Umotong is scheduled to be sentenced on December 2, 2013; he faces a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine on *each* of the counts of conviction. He could also be ordered to pay restitution.

Other defendants in the case who have been convicted and sentenced are listed below. Each was also ordered to pay restitution of amounts ranging from approximately \$195,000 to \$1.4 million.

Ovsanna Agopian, 58, Houston, 120 months in federal prison

Boghos Babadjanian, 55, of Sherman Oaks, Calif., probation

Leslie Omagbemi, 56, of Dallas, 30 months in federal prison

Munda Massaquoi, 69, of Houston, 37 months in federal prison

EHC was located on West Bedford Euless Road in Hurst Texas, and Medic, which operated from October 2009 to May 2011, was located on Bonhomme Road in Houston. Agopian, 58, was the operator of both EHC and Medic.

According to documents filed in the case and evidence presented at trial, Agopian, Umotong, Omagbemi, Massaquoi and Gates conspired together to submit, or cause to be submitted, fraudulent claims to Medicare for diagnostic tests and office visits. Agopian recruited unlicensed doctors to work for EHC and Medic by telling them that they would treat beneficiaries in the beneficiaries' homes. Medicare does not pay for services performed by unlicensed persons. Nevertheless, these recruits went to beneficiaries' homes and purported to conduct medical examinations, including ordering diagnostic tests. In total, more than \$2.7 million was fraudulently billed, and of that amount, Medicare paid more than \$1.3 million.

The case was investigated by the Dallas Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Action Team (HEAT) Strike Force, which includes the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG), the FBI and the Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Elliott prosecuted.

Since its inception in March 2007, the Medicare Fraud Strike Force, now operating in nine cities across the country, has charged more than 1,500 defendants who have collectively billed the Medicare program for more than \$5 billion. In addition, HHS's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, working in conjunction with HHS-OIG, are taking steps to increase accountability and decrease the presence of fraudulent providers.

To learn more about the HEAT Strike Force, go to: www.stopmedicarefraud.gov.



SEARCH THE SITE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS' OFFICES
HOMEPAGE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEYS' OFFICES
BRIEFING ROOM

LAW ENFORCEMENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Training and seminars for Federal, State, and Local Law Enforcement Agencies.



project safe childhood



Help us combat the proliferation of sexual exploitation crimes against children.

JUSTICE.GOV *en ESPAÑOL*



Report a Crime

Employment/Law Interns

Locate a Prison, Inmate, or Sex Offender

Apply for a Grant

Submit a Complaint

Report Waste, Fraud, Abuse or Misconduct to the Inspector General

Find Sales of Seized Property

Find Help and Information for Crime Victims

[Return to Top](#)

[Register, Apply for Permits, or Request Records](#)

[Identify Our Most Wanted Fugitives](#)

[Find a Form](#)

[Report and Identify Missing Persons](#)

[Contact Us](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Twitter

NORTHERN DISTRICT *of* TEXAS

1100 Commerce Street, Third Floor - Dallas, TX 75242-1699

[HOME](#)

[ABOUT](#)

[NEWS](#)

[MEET THE US
ATTORNEY](#)

[DIVISIONS](#)

[PROGRAMS](#)

[EMPLOYMENT](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[The District](#)

[Press Releases](#)
[News Archive](#)

[Civil](#)
[Criminal](#)
[Appellate](#)
[Administration](#)

[HumanTrafficking](#)
[LECC](#)
[PSC](#)
[PSN](#)
[VWA](#)

[Telephone](#)
[Mail](#)
[Webmaster](#)

JUSTICE.GOV/USAO

[Site Map](#)

[Justice.gov](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[USA.gov](#)

[FOIA](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Legal Policies &
Disclaimers](#)