



Department of Justice

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MEDICAL "HEAD-HUNTER" CHARGED WITH WIRE FRAUD FOR FALSE BILLINGS

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces the return by a grand jury of an indictment charging Sherry Lord Andersen (59, Jacksonville) with 17 counts of wire fraud. If convicted, Andersen faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison on each charge. The indictment also notifies Andersen that the United States intends to forfeit money and property, which are alleged to be traceable to proceeds of the offense.

According to the indictment, Andersen was the president of National Home & Hospital Consultant Corporation (NHHCC), a medical-personnel recruiting company in Jacksonville, Florida. Andersen entered into a contract with a factoring business located in Celebration, Florida, to sell certain accounts receivables of NHHCC to the factoring business. The indictment alleges that between March 2007 and November 2008, Andersen devised a scheme to sell phony NHHCC-customer invoices to the factoring business. The invoices falsely claimed that NHHCC had provided services to its customers. The indictment alleges that Andersen disguised the fraudulent nature of the invoices by providing phony contact names and fax numbers of the NHHCC customers, but which were answered by someone pretending to be the NHHCC customers' contact persons. The

fraudulent invoices induced the factoring business to buy the invoices and pay NHHCC with wire-transfers of funds originating in Atlanta, Georgia which were then wired to NHHCC's account in Jacksonville, Florida.

This case was investigated by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the United States Secret Service. It will be prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John Guard.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.