

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor
Newark, New Jersey 07102



Christopher J. Christie, U.S. Attorney

More Information? Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

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Contact:
Michael Drewniak, Public Affairs Officer
973-645-2888

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Aug. 22, 2008

Government Settles Healthcare Fraud Case Against Barnegat Psychologist

(More)

Public Affairs Office
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

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NEWARK – The U.S. Attorney’s Office has reached a civil settlement with a psychologist who practices in Monmouth and Ocean counties in connection with claims that he unlawfully and fraudulently billed Medicare for more than \$400,000, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

The United States alleged that Christopher Dooley, a licensed psychologist, fraudulently charged Medicare for services either not rendered to, or that were unnecessary for, his primarily elderly patients.

The government claimed that Dooley, 58, of Barnegat, targeted seniors in Monmouth County-area nursing homes who suffered from dementia and were unlikely to receive any benefit from his services. The government alleged that Dooley then billed Medicare for these unnecessary and ineffective services, failed to properly document such services, and also filed claims for payment from Medicare at rates for which he was not entitled.

In settling the matter Dooley has not admitted any wrongdoing. The terms of the agreement require Dooley, who is currently in bankruptcy proceedings, to repay the government \$150,000, and to voluntarily accept exclusion from Medicare, Medicaid, and all other federal healthcare programs for three years. The settlement agreement was signed and executed on Wednesday.

For the civil investigation, Christie credited Special Agent Eric Rubenstein, of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gary Heuer of the New York Regional Office.

The civil case against Dooley was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John Silberman and David Dauenheimer of the U.S. Attorney’s Office Civil Division.

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Defense counsel for Dooley: Peter J. Broege, Esq., Manasquan