

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA
ATLANTA DIVISION

FILED IN CHAMBERS
U.S.D.C ATLANTA

Date: Jun 11 2026

KEVIN P. WEIMER, Clerk

By: s/Phyllis Brannon

Deputy Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

LONNIE RELEFORD

Criminal Information

No. 1:26-CR-0269

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY CHARGES:

Count One
(Concealment of Material Facts Related to Health Care Matters)
(18 U.S.C. § 1035(a)(1))

1. At all times relevant to this Information:
 - a. The state of Georgia had laws, rules, and regulations regarding nursing care. The Georgia Board of Nursing governed the rulemaking and administration of nursing care rules in Georgia. The Georgia Board of Nursing licensed nurses through examination and endorsement from other states. After a nurse becomes licensed in Georgia, the Georgia Board of Nursing issues the nurse a nursing license number.
 - b. Under Georgia state law, a “licensed practical nurse” (“LPN”) is a “person who has completed a board approved nursing program necessary to qualify for examination for licensure and who is authorized by a license issued under this article to practice practical nursing.” O.C.G.A. § 43-26-32(5). It is unlawful for any person to

“[p]ractice practical nursing as a licensed practical nurse without a valid current license[.]” O.C.G.A. § 43-26-42(1).

- c. Medicare and Medicaid were federal “health care benefit programs” as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b). Medicare was administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, through its agency, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”). Medicaid was administered through the Georgia Department of Community Health.
 - d. CMS administered the Medicare enrollment of health care practitioners through regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services. To participate in Medicare, hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and other providers must be enrolled in the Medicare program. Federal regulations require that providers who enroll and maintain active enrollment status in Medicare must certify compliance with federal and state licensure, certification, and regulatory requirements, as required, based on the type of services provided.
 - e. The defendant, LONNIE RELEFORD, was a resident of Georgia and worked at several hospitals and skilled nursing homes located in the Northern District of Georgia.
2. From in or about August 2021 through in or about April 2025, RELEFORD devised and executed a scheme to trick health care providers in the Northern District of Georgia into hiring and employing him as an LPN when, in

fact, RELEFORD was not an LPN, by impersonating victim R.W., an actual LPN licensed by the Georgia Board of Nursing.

3. RELEFORD obtained the name and the LPN license number of victim R.W., an LPN who provided nursing services in Albany, Georgia.

4. RELEFORD used victim R.W.'s name and LPN license number, without victim R.W.'s knowledge or consent, to falsely hold himself out as an LPN and apply for and maintain employment with health care providers in the Northern District of Georgia, either directly with the health care provider or through a staffing agency.

5. When applying for LPN positions with health care providers, RELEFORD falsely represented his educational background by claiming he obtained a college degree in Practical Nursing at Edmonson Junior College in 1994 and routinely lied about his prior criminal history. In truth and in fact, RELEFORD never obtained a nursing degree and was not qualified or licensed to practice as an LPN in the state of Georgia and thus was legally unqualified to practice the profession of an LPN.

6. Through false statements and representations, RELEFORD obtained and maintained employment with health care providers. Those health care providers, in turn, billed health care benefit programs, including Medicare and Medicaid, for supposed LPN services provided by RELEFORD, such as delivering medical treatment, services, medications, and items to patients and obtaining sensitive, confidential, and private medical information from patients. Throughout this time, RELEFORD lacked the necessary education, training, credentials, and lawful authority to provide LPN services.

7. Through the false statements and representations, RELEFORD fraudulently obtained compensation from health care providers as an LPN, even though he had no such credentials.

8. On or about August 25, 2021, in the Northern District of Georgia, the defendant,

LONNIE RELEFORD,

knowingly and willfully falsified, concealed, and covered up by a trick, scheme, and device a material fact, that is, RELEFORD impersonated victim R.W. and used victim R.W.'s name and LPN license number to hide that RELEFORD was not an LPN in order to obtain employment as an LPN at a hospital located in Atlanta, Georgia, in connection with the delivery of and payment for health care benefits, items, and services involving Medicare and Medicaid, health care benefit programs as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 24(b), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1035(a)(1).

Forfeiture

9. Upon conviction of the offense alleged in Count One of this Information, the defendant, LONNIE RELEFORD, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7), any property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived, directly or indirectly, from gross proceeds traceable to the commission of the offense, including, but not limited, to:

MONEY JUDGMENT: A sum of money in United States currency, representing the amount of proceeds obtained as a result of the offense alleged in Count One of this Information.

10. If, as a result of any act or omission of the defendant, any property subject to forfeiture:

- a. cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- b. has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- c. has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;
- d. has been substantially diminished in value; or
- e. has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty;

the United States intends, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(b)(1) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendant up to the value of the forfeitable property.

THEODORE S. HERTZBERG
United States Attorney

Edward C. Robinson Jr.
EDWARD C. ROBINSON JR.
Assistant United States Attorney
Georgia Bar No. 913467

600 U.S. Courthouse
75 Ted Turner Drive SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-581-6000; Fax: 404-581-6181