

CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF QUEENS

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

-against-

GIFTY APPIAH (F 59),

Defendant.

FELONY

Docket No.

State of New York)
County of Queens) ss.:

Detective Nefertiti Clarke, Shield # 2398, of the New York State Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Medicaid Fraud Control Unit ("MFCU"), 28 Liberty Street, New York, New York, being duly sworn, deposes and says the following:

That on or about and between March 16, 2021, and November 12, 2024, including June 9, 2022, at or near Steinway Hope Medical LLC ("Steinway"), located at [REDACTED], in the County of Queens, and elsewhere in the State of New York, the defendant, Appiah Gifty, acting in concert with, Francia Aguila ("Aguila"), a part-owner and high managerial agent of Steinway, an outpatient general practice, and others known and unknown, committed the offenses of:

Count 1: Penal Law § 175.35(1) Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree
(*E Felony*)

Count 2: Penal Law § 175.30 Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree
(*A Misdemeanor*)

IN THAT THE DEFENDANT, acting in concert with Aguila, a part-owner and high managerial agent of Steinway, and with others known and unknown: (1) knowing that a written instrument contains a false statement or false information, and with the intent to defraud the state or any political subdivision, public authority or public benefit corporation of the state, offered or presented that written statement to a public office, public servant, public authority or public benefit corporation with the knowledge or belief that it will be filed with, registered or recorded in or otherwise become a part of the records of such public office, public servant, public authority or public benefit corporation; (2) knowing that a written instrument contains a false statement or false information, offered or presented that written statement to a public office or public servant with the knowledge or belief that it will be filed with, registered or recorded in or otherwise become a part of the records of such public office or public servant.

The offenses were committed under the following circumstances:

Background

The Defendant acting in concert with Aguila, a member, part-owner and employee of Steinway, a purported medical clinic, each charged in a separate felony complaint filed in this Court, conspired to provide unlicensed medical treatment to Steinway patients, including New York State Medical Assistance Program ("Medicaid") recipients.

The Defendant, a licensed Nurse Practitioner in the State of New York and an enrolled provider in Medicaid, contracted with Steinway to act as the sole provider of medical services to patients at Steinway in exchange for \$10,000 per month. Steinway, with Defendant's consent, used the Defendant's name and credentials, to contract with multiple Medicaid-funded Managed Care Organizations ("MCOs"), including Fidelis Care, Healthfirst, and MetroPlus, which allowed Steinway to submit claims for reimbursement to, and to be paid by MCOs with Medicaid funds.

During the above relevant time period, Aguila did not possess a license to practice any profession in any capacity, including the professions of medicine and nursing, in the State of New York.

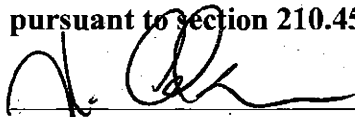
On or about and between March 16, 2021, and November 12, 2024, in Queens County, in the State of New York, on one or more occasions, the Defendant aided and abetted Aguila, an unlicensed person, to practice the profession of medicine by holding Aguila out as a person being able to practice medicine in the state of New York by allowing her to diagnose, treat, and prescribe medications to patients for human disease, pain, injury, deformity and physical condition knowing that she was not licensed to do so.

Defendant's Offering of a False Instrument for Filing

The Defendant signed and submitted a Medicaid Certification, dated June 9, 2022, to the New York State Department of Health, falsely certifying that the claims submitted for payment to Medicaid were provided by persons that had the necessary licensing, certification, training and experience to perform the claimed medical services, when in fact Defendant knew that those services were provided by Aguila, an unlicensed individual. Steinway submitted those false claims to Medicaid-funded MCOs, and in reliance of those false entries, MCOs paid Steinway in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) for which neither the Defendant, nor Steinway, were entitled.

The above allegations of fact are made by the deponent herein upon direct knowledge and upon information and belief, with the sources of deponent's information and the grounds for her belief being her review of the file on this matter maintained by MFCU, including records obtained by the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Education Department, and upon conversations with other members of MFCU assigned to this matter and interviews of witnesses known to the deponent.

False statements made in this written instrument are punishable as a class A misdemeanor pursuant to section 210.45 of the Penal Law, and as other crimes.



Detective Nefertiti Clarke

6/18/26
Date

16⁴⁵
Time