

United States Courts  
Southern District of Texas  
FILED

*June 21, 2024*

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**v.**

**CARMALITA LANDRY (01) and  
DARLENE BURBRIDGE (02),**

**Defendants.**

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**Case No. 4:24-cr-00336**

**INFORMATION**

The United States Attorney charges that:

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

At all times relevant to this Information:

**Defendants, Relevant Individuals, and Entities**

1. **CARMALITA LANDRY**, a resident of Houston, Texas, was the owner of Custom Care Pharmacy (“Custom Care”). Custom Care was a pharmacy located in Jersey Village, Texas, in the Southern District of Texas. Custom Care filled prescriptions, including for federal workers who had benefits through Department of Labor, Office of Workers’ Compensation Programs (“DOL-OWCP”).

2. **DARLENE BURBRIDGE**, a resident of Houston, Texas, was the owner and operator of Criterion Therapy Center (“Criterion”), a limited liability company located in Houston, Texas, in the Southern District of Texas. Criterion was a physical therapy clinic that treated federal workers who had benefits through DOL-OWCP. **DARLENE BURBRIDGE** sent prescriptions to Custom Care in exchange for illegal kickbacks.

3. The Ivy Taylor Group was a limited liability company located in Houston, Texas, in the Southern District of Texas. The Ivy Taylor Group was a shell company set up by

**CARMALITA LANDRY** for the purpose of paying illegal kickbacks to individuals, including to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE**.

4. SHARON PICKROM, a resident of Houston, Texas, controlled Nonprofit 1, a purported nonprofit corporation located in Houston, Texas, in the Southern District of Texas, although SHARON PICKROM's husband was listed as its Chairman and CEO. SHARON PICKROM sent false and fraudulent prescriptions to Custom Care in exchange for illegal kickbacks.

5. PERSON 2, a resident of Houston, Texas, was the owner and operator of three business entities located in Houston, Texas, in the Southern District of Texas: a physical therapy clinic that treated federal workers who had benefits through DOL-OWCP, a durable medical equipment ("DME") company, and a purported marketing company. PERSON 2 caused prescriptions to be referred to Custom Care in exchange for illegal kickbacks.

#### **The Federal Employee's Compensation Act**

6. The Federal Employee's Compensation Act ("FECA") paid workers' compensation benefits to federal employees who suffered an injury, disease, or death in the performance of duty. An injured federal worker insured under FECA was generally referred to as a "claimant."

7. FECA was a "health care benefit program," as defined by Title 18, United States Code, Section 24(b), and a "Federal health care program," as defined by Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b(f).

8. FECA paid for, among other things, necessary medical care and prescription and pharmaceutical drugs on behalf of claimants for injuries sustained during the claimants' work for the federal government. FECA would not pay claims submitted by a pharmacy for prescriptions for drugs that FECA knew, among other things, (1) were not medically necessary for the treatment

of the claimant's specific medical needs; or (2) were the result of the payment of kickbacks or bribes.

9. DOL-OWCP administered the benefits under FECA. Providers of health care services ("providers") were required to enroll with DOL-OWCP to receive a provider identification number and reimbursement under FECA. Form OWCP-1168 was used for enrollment and updating provider information. By completing and submitting Form OWCP-1168, a provider certified that all the federal and state licensure and regulatory requirements applicable to their provider type were satisfied.

10. DOL-OWCP contracted with Affiliated Computer Services ("ACS") to provide medical claims processing and payments. ACS served as the billing administrator for FECA. In this capacity, ACS received provider enrollment forms from prospective FECA providers, assigned provider numbers, and processed and paid claims for benefits under FECA.

11. All providers were required to enroll with DOL-OWCP through ACS. Once enrolled, a provider was given access to the ACS online system. Through this ACS system, a provider could submit claims, check the status of pending claims, and perform other billing-related functions. A provider could submit claims using either the ACS provider number or the provider's Social Security number.

12. Providers were required to identify themselves on each claim for the services that they purportedly provided. All claims submitted were required to be supported by medical evidence. The submission of a claim and acceptance of payment by a provider signified that the service for which reimbursement was sought was performed as described, medically necessary and appropriate, and properly billed in accordance with accepted industry standards. DOL-OWCP

paid claims for prescriptions on behalf of claimants to a pharmacy's financial institution by wire, check, or electronic transfer.

13. Custom Care was enrolled as a pharmacist provider with ACS that billed and was paid by FECA for purported prescription claims.

**COUNT 1**

**Conspiracy to Defraud the United States and Pay and Receive Health Care Kickbacks  
(18 U.S.C. § 371)**

14. Paragraphs 1 through 13 of this Information are re-alleged and incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

15. Beginning in or around 2017, and continuing through in or around 2021, in the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas, and elsewhere, defendants

**CARMALITA LANDRY and  
DARLENE BURBRIDGE**

did knowingly and willfully combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other, SHARON PICKROM, PERSON 2, and others known and unknown to the United States Attorney to commit the following offenses against the United States, that is:

- a. to defraud the United States by impairing, impeding, obstructing, and defeating, through deceitful and dishonest means, the lawful government functions of the DOL-OWCP in its administration and oversight of FECA;
- b. to violate Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b(b)(1) by soliciting and receiving remuneration, including kickbacks and bribes, directly and indirectly, overtly and covertly, in cash and in kind in return for referring an individual to a person for the furnishing and arranging for the furnishing of any item and service for which payment may be made in whole and in part by a Federal health care program, that is, FECA; and purchasing, leasing, ordering, and arranging for and

recommending purchasing, leasing, and ordering any good, facility, service, and item for which payment may be made in whole and in part under a Federal health care program, that is, FECA; and

- c. to violate Title 42, United States Code, Section 1320a-7b(b)(2) by offering and paying any remuneration, including kickbacks and bribes, directly and indirectly, overtly and covertly, in cash and in kind, to any person to induce such person to refer an individual to a person for the furnishing and arranging for the furnishing of any item and service for which payment may be made in whole and in part under a Federal health care program, that is, FECA; and to purchase, lease, order and arrange for and recommend purchasing, leasing, and ordering any good, facility, service, and item for which payment may be made in whole and in part under a Federal health care program, that is, FECA.

#### **Purpose of the Conspiracy**

16. It was a purpose of the conspiracy for **CARMALITA LANDRY, DARLENE BURBRIDGE, SHARON PICKROM, PERSON 2**, and other coconspirators known and unknown to the United States Attorney to unlawfully enrich and benefit themselves by, among other things: (a) soliciting, receiving, offering, and paying illegal kickbacks and bribes in exchange for the referral of prescriptions for high-reimbursing drugs to Custom Care; (b) submitting and causing the submission of claims to DOL-OWCP for prescription drugs that were induced by illegal kickbacks and bribes and ineligible for reimbursement; (c) concealing and disguising the payment and receipt of kickbacks and bribes, and the submission of false and fraudulent claims; and (d) diverting the proceeds of the conspiracy for the personal use and benefit of the defendants and their coconspirators, and to further the conspiracy.

**Manner and Means of the Conspiracy**

17. The manner and means by which **CARMALITA LANDRY, DARLENE BURBRIDGE**, and their coconspirators, known and unknown, sought to accomplish the purpose of the conspiracy included, among other things:

18. **DARLENE BURBRIDGE, SHARON PICKROM, PERSON 2**, and others obtained prescriptions in the name of DOL-OWCP claimants—sometimes without the claimants’ knowledge or consent—which they referred to **CARMALITA LANDRY** at Custom Care.

19. In exchange for the referral of claimants’ prescriptions to Custom Care, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid **DARLENE BURBRIDGE, SHARON PICKROM**—often through SHARON PICKROM’s husband and company—PERSON 2, and others illegal kickbacks and bribes.

20. **CARMALITA LANDRY** and others created, and caused to be created, prescription pads containing high-reimbursing drugs that were specifically designed to maximize reimbursement. These prescription pads, as was intended, contained pharmaceutical drugs selected based on the reimbursement from DOL-OWCP, not a claimant’s medical needs.

21. **CARMALITA LANDRY** provided **DARLENE BURBRIDGE, SHARON PICKROM, PERSON 2**, and others with pre-printed prescriptions for high-reimbursing drugs to be prescribed to claimants, often regardless of medical condition.

22. **CARMALITA LANDRY** instructed, and caused others to instruct, **DARLENE BURBRIDGE, SHARON PICKROM, PERSON 2**, and others which high-reimbursing drugs to cause to be prescribed to claimants.

23. SHARON PICKROM sent prescriptions to Custom Care that were often false and fraudulent, as they were not authorized by the identified prescriber and were written for claimants who had no knowledge of the prescriptions purportedly issued.

24. From in or around September 2017, and continuing through in or around March 2021, Custom Care billed DOL-OWCP approximately \$9.4 million for prescriptions. DOL-OWCP paid Custom Care approximately \$5.6 million on those claims, at least approximately \$1.7 million of which was paid on claims predicated on the illegal kickbacks and bribes that **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid to her coconspirators.

25. From in or around 2018, and continuing through in or around June 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid **DARLENE BURBRIDGE** approximately \$107,267.61 in illegal kickbacks and bribes directly and indirectly through The Ivy Taylor Group, a shell company **CARMALITA LANDRY** used to conceal and disguise illegal kickback payments to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE**.

26. From in or around December 2017, and continuing through in or around June 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid SHARON PICKROM, SHARON PICKROM's husband, and Nonprofit 1 approximately \$400,000 in illegal kickbacks and bribes, often concealed and disguised as "charitable contributions."

27. From in or around October 2017, and continuing through in or around March 2021, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid PERSON 2 approximately \$226,000, which was mostly illegal kickbacks and bribes concealed and disguised as payments for marketing services or medical supplies.

**Overt Acts**

28. In furtherance of the conspiracy, and to accomplish its objects and purpose, at least one coconspirator committed and caused to be committed, in the Houston Division of the Southern District of Texas, and elsewhere, at least one of the following overt acts, among others:

- a. On or about May 3, 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid an illegal kickback and bribe to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE** in the amount of \$3,750.00 in the form of a direct deposit from The Ivy Taylor Group to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE**'s Woodforest National Bank account ending x3456 ("WNB x3456").
- b. On or about May 3, 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY** submitted or caused to be submitted a claim from Custom Care to DOL-OWCP for CLAIMANT 1 in the amount of \$2,587.50 for a prescription induced by kickbacks to SHARON PICKROM. On or about May 9, 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY**, through Custom Care, received \$1,553.44 from DOL-OWCP as reimbursement for that claim.
- c. On or about May 17, 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid an illegal kickback and bribe to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE** in the amount of \$4,500.00 in the form of a direct deposit from The Ivy Taylor Group to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE**'s WNB x3456.
- d. On or about June 12, 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY** submitted or caused to be submitted a claim from Custom Care to DOL-OWCP for CLAIMANT 2 in the amount of \$3,150.18 for a prescription induced by kickbacks to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE**. On or about June 20, 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY**, through



Custom Care, received \$1,259.13 from DOL-OWCP as reimbursement for that claim.

- e. On or about June 14, 2019, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid an illegal kickback and bribe to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE** in the amount of \$1,020.00 in the form of a direct deposit from The Ivy Taylor Group to **DARLENE BURBRIDGE**'s WNB x3456.
- f. On or about October 22, 2020, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid an illegal kickback and bribe to PERSON 2 in the amount of \$2,224.00 in the form of a check from Custom Care's WF x2380 to PERSON 2's purported marketing company.
- g. On or about February 1, 2021, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid an illegal kickback and bribe to PERSON 2 in the amount of \$5,200.00 in the form of a check from Custom Care's WF x2380 to PERSON 2's purported marketing company, with the memo line falsely stating that it was for "marketing services."
- h. On or about March 18, 2021, **CARMALITA LANDRY** paid an illegal kickback and bribe to PERSON 2 in the amount of \$1,378.00 in the form of a check from Custom Care's WF x2380 to PERSON 2's purported marketing company.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371.

**NOTICE OF CRIMINAL FORFEITURE**  
**(18 U.S.C. §§ 982(a)(7) and 981(a)(1)(C); 21 U.S.C. § 853(c))**

29. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 982(a)(7) and 981(a)(1)(C), the United States of America gives notice to defendants **DARLENE BURBRIDGE** and **CARMALITA LANDRY** that, upon their conviction of the offense charged in this Information, the United States intends to seek forfeiture of all property, real or personal, that constitutes or is derived, directly or indirectly, from gross proceeds traceable to the commission of such offense.

**Property Subject to Forfeiture, Money Judgment, and Substitute Assets**


30. Defendant **DARLENE BURBRIDGE** is notified that the property subject to forfeiture includes, but is not limited to, at least \$107,267.61 in criminal proceeds.

31. Defendant **CARMALITA LANDRY** is notified that the property subject to forfeiture includes, but is not limited to, at least \$1,741,549.50 in criminal proceeds.

32. Defendants are notified that the United States will seek the imposition of a money judgment against them. In the event that a condition listed in Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p) exists, the United States will seek to forfeit any other property of the defendants in substitution up to the amount of the money judgment.

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