

October 21, 2020

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL: MEDICAL SUPPLY COMPANY, OWNER CHARGED FOR DEFRAUDING STATE OUT OF MEDICAID FUNDING

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced that a Cook County medical supply company and its owner have been charged with defrauding the state of Illinois of more than \$155,000 in Medicaid funding.

Windy City Medical Supply, Inc. and its owner, Stephen Akpan, 42, of Lynwood, Ill. were charged in Cook County Circuit Court with theft of government property by deception and theft of government property by unauthorized control, each a Class X felony punishable by six to 30 years in prison; vendor fraud, a Class 1 felony punishable by four to 15 years in prison; and forgery, a Class 3 felony punishable by two to five years in prison. Akpan also faces a fine of up to \$25,000 for each charge, and Windy City Medical Supply faces a fine of up to \$50,000 for each charge.

Akpan owned Windy City Medical Supply, Inc., located at 3155 191st Place in Lansing, Ill. Raoul alleges that between August 2015 and November 2017, Akpan and Windy City Medical Supply submitted numerous claims to Illinois' Medicaid program for incontinence products that were never ordered or provided.

"Illinois' Medicaid program serves some of our state's most vulnerable residents, and the defendant and his company abused the program to steal vital funding," Raoul said. "I am committed to ensuring that individuals are held accountable for exploiting government programs to line their own pockets."

The Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Unit opened an investigation after a Medicaid recipient filed a complaint with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). The recipient had attempted to order products through another company; however, Medicaid denied the claim citing claims already submitted by Windy City Medical Supply in the recipient's name. Upon further investigation, the Illinois State Police found 29 instances in which Windy City Medical Supply filed claims for incontinence products Medicaid recipients did not order.

"These charges show exactly why we maintain a strong partnership in finding and referring fraud to the Attorney General's office," said Theresa Eagleson, Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. "We're committed to having the highest standards of program integrity on behalf of the citizens of Illinois, and we'll continue to do everything we can to ensure that our state's Medicaid dollars actually go to the people and families who need them the most."

"The success of any criminal investigation is directly attributed to the efforts put forth by the officers working the case," said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly. "The men and women assigned to the Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau continue to exhibit their dedication when investigating instances of Medicaid fraud. We are committed to thoroughly investigate any referral submitted to the Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau."

The public is reminded that the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Assistant Attorney General John R. Fearon is handling the case for Raoul's Medicaid Fraud Bureau.