

October 21, 2021

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL CHARGES MEDICAL EQUIPMENT COMPANY OWNER AND BILLER FOR DEFRAUDING STATE OUT OF MEDICAID FUNDING

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced that a Cook County medical equipment company owner and the company's biller have been charged with defrauding the state out of more than \$600,000 in Medicaid funds.

Doreatha Thomas, 59, and Siobahan Booker, 37, both of Olympia Fields, were charged in Cook County Circuit Court with two counts of theft, a Class X felony punishable by six to 30 years in prison; one count of vendor fraud, a Class 1 felony punishable by four to 15 years in prison; and one count of forgery, a Class 3 felony punishable by up to two to five years in prison.

"Thousands of Illinois residents rely on Medicaid for their health care, and we will not tolerate individuals abusing this critical program for the own financial benefit," Raoul said. "My office will continue to work with our state government partners to identify fraud and hold those who engage in Medicaid fraud fully accountable to the people of Illinois."

Thomas owns Integrity Medical & Physician Supply, a medical equipment supply company in Olympia Fields that sells medical supplies for diabetes patients, hospital beds, wheelchairs, canes and urinary incontinence supplies. Raoul alleges in the indictments that Thomas and Booker, as the company's biller, submitted fraudulent claims to Illinois' Medicaid program for diabetic supplies that were not provided. In several instances, according to Raoul's office, Integrity Medical & Physician Supply billed the Medicaid program for more boxes of glucose monitor sensors than patients were actually prescribed. In total, Thomas and Booker allegedly defrauded Illinois' Medicaid program out of nearly \$685,000.

The Illinois State Police, Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau conducted the investigation into Integrity Medical & Physician Supply and alleged fraudulent billing practices by Thomas and Booker following a referral from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services Office of the Inspector General and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois.

"The Illinois State Police Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigates allegations like these every day to ensure that resources allotted to provide care to the sick and vulnerable are not diverted to providers who try to game the system for financial gain," said ISP Director Brendan F. Kelly.

"HFS' Office of the Inspector General appreciated the opportunity to support MFCU's investigation and the resulting indictment," said HFS Inspector General Brian Dunn. "As the administrator of the state's Medicaid program and a steward of public resources, HFS takes any attempt to defraud Illinois' Medicaid program very seriously."

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

Medicaid Fraud Deputy Bureau Chief Heather D'Orazio and Assistant Attorney General Steve Krueger are handling the case for Raoul's Medicaid Fraud Bureau.

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