



Free Issue >



Bill Singer, Contributor  
+ Follow on Forbes

INVESTING | 1/03/2012 @ 4:36PM | 111 views

## Whistleblowers Claim Medicare Defrauded Into Paying For Hospice Care

+ Comment now



**UPDATE: The Epidemic of Florida Medicare Fraud (Prison Terms)**



Bill Singer Contributor

First enacted during the Civil War, the federal *False Claims Act*, 31 U.S.C. § 3729 *et seq.*, authorizes

treble damages and a penalty from \$5,500 to \$11,000 per claim for anyone who knowingly submits or causes the submission of a false or fraudulent claim to the United States. Under the *False Claims Act*, whistleblowers may file lawsuits on behalf of the United States and share in any recovery.

**SIDE BAR:** For a detailed discussion of the *False Claims Act* process: [Visit](#)

As a result of information provided by whistleblowers Dawn Richardson and Marsha Brown, former employees of AseraCare Hospice, on January 23, 2012, the United States intervened and filed a *Complaint* against [AseraCare Hospice](#) in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Alabama. *United*



## Most Popular

NEWS [People](#) [Places](#) [Companies](#)

**Why Best Buy is Going out of Business...Gradually** +480,550 views

**The Seven Habits of Spectacularly Unsuccessful Executives** +422,695 views

**M.I.T. Game-Changer: Free Online Education For All** +68,108 views

**You Can Get Richer Pinching Pennies Like Warren Buffett** +45,607 views

**Top Ten Reasons Why Large Companies Fail To Keep Their Best Talent** +36,977 views

+ show more



Bill Singer Contributor  
+ Follow on Forbes

I'm a thirty-year veteran of Wall Street and an outspoken critic of ineffective regulation and an advocate for economic and political sanity.



UPDATE: Medicare Urology Fraud At Columbia and New York Presbyterian Hospitals Yields \$995,000 Federal Settlement

Bill Singer Contributor



Feds Not Sleepwalking With Healthcare / Medicare Fraud Cases

Bill Singer Contributor

States ex rel. Richardson and Brown v. Golden Gate National Senior Care LLC dba Golden Living et al., No. 2:09-cv-00627 (N.D. Ala.).

SIDE BAR: Golden Gate Ancillary LLC, dba AseraCare Hospice, is a for-profit business with approximately 65 hospice providers in 19 states, including Alabama, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

The Complaint alleges that AseraCare violated the False Claims Act when it misspent millions of taxpayer dollars intended for Medicare recipients who have a prognosis of six months or less to live and need hospice care. For-profit hospice companies are entitled to receive Medicare dollars only for Medicare recipients who are terminally ill. In United States ex rel. Richardson and Brown v. Golden Gate National Senior Care LLC dba Golden Living et al, the government contends that AseraCare Hospice knowingly submitted false claims to Medicare for hospice care for patients who were not terminally ill.

Under the applicable Medicare provisions, a Medicare recipient admitted to hospice care is no longer entitled to receive services that would help to cure his or her illness. Instead, treatment is supposed to be limited to palliative care, which is aimed at relieving pain, symptoms or stress of terminal illness (including a comprehensive set of medical, social, psychological, emotional and spiritual services). Although elderly patients may qualify for a variety of Medicare-paid services, hospice care is supposed to be limited to terminally ill patients receiving palliative care.

NOTE: The Complaint contains merely allegations and defendants are entitled to the presumption of innocence unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

+ Comment now

0 8 1

Email Print Report Corrections

# More on Forbes Right Now

FEATURES



Following a career as an in-house lawyer and industry regulator, I am now in private practice representing member firms, registered persons, Whistleblowers, and defrauded investors. I have had the distinction of representing clients during Congressional investigations. I publish the

The author is a Forbes contributor. The opinions expressed are those of the writer.

BILL SINGER'S POPULAR POSTS

Proof of Alien Construction on Mars! How It Will End the Recession 16,263 views

The Epidemic of Florida Medicare Fraud 15,955 views

Barbie Mugged by the Bratz In \$89 Million Jury Verdict 13,553 views

Child Pornography Hid Behind Xbox LIVE "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" 10,599 views

False Shuffle Trips Up Blackjack Players 10,389 views

MORE FROM BILL SINGER

## Bill's News Stream

Show all activity (20)

New Post 4 hours ago

Whistleblowers Claim Medicare Defrauded Into Paying For Hospice Care

New Post 12 hours ago

Brokerage Firm Sale Runs Afoul of FINRA Private Securities Transaction Rule

Comment 3 days ago

Puffinix: No dispute from me on that point. Read my recent blogs on [...] on Guilty Pleas In Antitrust Division Municipal Bond Bid Rigging Case

New Post 4 days ago

Guilty Pleas In Antitrust Division Municipal Bond Bid Rigging Case