



THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
MIDDLE DISTRICT *of* FLORIDA

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Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Middle District of Florida

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

Government Settles Claims Against Accountant For Tainted Compounding Pharmacy Proceeds

Jacksonville, FL – Ronald Combs and the Ronald Combs Healthmark Trust have agreed to pay to the government \$650,000 to resolve allegations that Combs wrongfully deposited tainted compounding pharmacy proceeds into the Ronald Combs Healthmark Trust.

The United States previously settled allegations that QMedRx, a compound pharmacy in Maitland, Florida, knowingly billed federal healthcare programs for services that were not reimbursable and thus violated the False Claims Act. In the case at hand, the government contends that proceeds from QMedRx's improper activities were deposited into the Healthmark Investment Trust and that Combs withdrew funds from the Healthmark Investment Trust and deposited them into the Ronald Combs Healthmark Trust. The government contends that Combs was not entitled to withdraw these funds, as they represented the ill-gotten gains of QMedRx's misconduct, and the withdrawal was otherwise improper under state law.

"The United States Attorney's Office is committed to protecting TRICARE and other federal health care programs from any improper practice that harms our nation's subsidized health programs," said U.S. Attorney Maria Chapa Lopez. "The diligence required in this case aptly demonstrates the lengths to which we will go to protect the fiscal integrity of these programs."

"This settlement is the result of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service's continuing commitment to protect the integrity of the U.S. Department of Defense health care program (TRICARE) against fraud, waste, and abuse," said Special Agent in Charge John F. Khin, Southeast Field Office. "In partnership with the Department of Justice, DCIS will pursue all remedies to recover ill-gotten proceeds from fraudulent schemes."

This case illustrates the government's continued emphasis on pursuing compounding pharmacies that have defrauded federal health care programs. In the Middle District of Florida, the

government has recovered almost \$60 million in fines and penalties for compounding cases. In fiscal year 2017, over \$700 million was recovered in affirmative civil enforcement cases.

Today's resolution illustrates the government's commitment to combating improper practices that implicate the nation's federally subsidized health care programs, using all statutory and common law remedies available to address such schemes. Tips from all sources about potential fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement can be reported to the Department of Health and Human Services, at 800-HHS-TIPS (800-447-8477).

This matter was investigated by the Department of Justice and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Shea Gibbons, with assistance from Assistant United States Attorney Chris Sabis in the Middle District of Tennessee.

The claims resolved by this settlement are allegations only, and there has been no determination of liability.

Topic(s):

False Claims Act

Financial Fraud

Health Care Fraud

Component(s):

USAO - Florida, Middle

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