



Memorandum



Miami-Dade County Office of the Inspector General
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To: Hon. Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez, Miami-Dade County
Hon. Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Mr. Darryl K. Sharpton, Chairman
and Members, Public Health Trust Board of Trustees
Mr. Carlos A. Migoya, President & CEO, Jackson Health System

From: Patra Liu, Interim Inspector General

Date: January 24, 2014

Subject: Former Jackson Health System Employee Pleads Guilty to Theft, Ref. IG09-84

Michael R. Clarke (Clarke), a former employee of the Jackson Health System (JHS), pleaded guilty yesterday to felony theft charges in a criminal case resulting from a joint investigation by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and the State Attorney's Office.

Clarke, who was a Patient Care Assistant assigned to the Batchelor Urology Center (Batchelor Center), was formally terminated in November 2009—for abandoning his post—after JHS began receiving complaints from patients about payments they made that were supposed to be applied towards their patient accounts. JHS officials notified the OIG of the complaints received and their suspicions involving Mr. Clarke and requested that the OIG investigate the matter. The OIG determined that Clarke, who was responsible for checking in patients and collecting payments at the Batchelor Center, asked that the checks be made out to “cash” or that the payee line be left blank in order to be stamped in later. Clarke then deposited the funds into his personal account and manipulated the computer system to ensure that no bill would be generated. His scheme began to unravel when a patient and her husband complained to JHS that their billing statement did not reflect the payments they had made to the Batchelor Center. The joint investigation found that between June 2008 and July 2009, Clarke deposited 17 patient checks (totaling \$7,781) into his personal credit union account. Clarke pleaded guilty to four (4) counts of Grand Theft and thirteen (13) counts of Petit Theft involving these diverted payments.

Clarke was sentenced to twelve (12) years of probation. His sentence includes the payment of restitution to JHS and costs of investigation to the County. He is also barred from future employment with Miami-Dade County, including JHS, during the term of his probation. The OIG appreciates the cooperation of JHS officials throughout the investigation and resulting criminal prosecution.

cc: Don Steigman, Chief Operating Officer, Jackson Health System
Mark Knight, Chief Financial Officer, Jackson Health System
Mark Aprigliano, Corporate Director, Public Safety Division, Jackson Health System
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor