



Sober homes owner sentenced in Amtrak OIG-supported health care fraud case

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clark.carpenter@amtrakoig.gov

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -- The owner of several now-defunct sober homes was sentenced to more than 5 years in prison and ordered to pay over \$2 million in restitution recently for his role in a health care fraud conspiracy.

Since 2014, special agents from Amtrak's Office of Inspector General have been supporting the FBI-led Greater Palm Beach Health Care Fraud Task Force in its ongoing investigation into a series of complex insurance and health care fraud schemes in Florida. Amtrak's insurance providers were fraudulently billed as a result of these schemes. To date, the actions of the task force have resulted in 18 convictions of individuals involved in health care related crimes.

Albert Samukia Jones Saye, 27, aka Albert Jones, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Robin L. Rosenberg to 71 months in prison, to be followed by 3 years of supervised release and was ordered to pay \$2,071,406 in restitution. In January 2018, Jones pleaded guilty to participating in a health care fraud conspiracy and maintaining a drug-involved premises.

According to court documents, Jones owned and operated several recovery residences in Palm Beach County from 2014-2016. When properly managed, these residences, commonly known as sober homes, operate as alcohol and drug-free living environments for individuals attempting to abstain from substance abuse.

However, Jones used the residences as part of a health care fraud scheme in which more than 100 residents of his sober homes were referred to a substance abuse treatment facility, Reflections Treatment Center, for medically unnecessary urine and saliva testing. In some cases, the tests were falsified by treatment center workers who would forge patient signatures on sign-in sheets and submit their own bodily fluids for the tests. In exchange for patient referrals, Jones received kickbacks from Reflections' owner, Kenneth Chatman, who was sentenced to 27 years in prison in May 2017 for his role in the scheme and other offenses.

To further defraud insurance companies, Jones would encourage drug use among his insured residents, even providing drugs and using them with his residents, to cause "relapses," which would extend their stays in his sober homes and lead to more unnecessary tests at Reflections.

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“The continued success of the task force is truly impressive; we remain committed to supporting it and ending these health care fraud crimes,” said George L. Dorsett, Amtrak OIG’s Assistant Inspector General for Investigations.

The Greater Palm Beach Health Care Fraud Task Force is comprised of more than 10 organizations including federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The Amtrak Office of Inspector General was created in 1989 through an amendment to the Inspector General Act of 1978. Its mission is to provide independent, objective oversight of Amtrak’s programs and operations through audits and investigations focused on recommending improvements to Amtrak’s economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse; and providing Congress, Amtrak management, and Amtrak’s Board of Directors with timely information about problems and deficiencies relating to Amtrak’s programs and operations. More information is available at www.amtrakoig.gov.

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US Attorney, Southern District Florida Press Release: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdfl/pr/sober-home-owner-sentenced-over-five-years-prison>