

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S MEDICAID FRAUD CONTROL UNIT
ANNUAL REPORT
FY 2006 – 2007**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Executive Summary will provide information and some analysis on enforcement activities of the Office of the Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU). The MFCU's primary responsibilities include both conducting investigations and assisting in the prosecution of fraud in Florida's Medicaid program and abuse, neglect or exploitation of persons housed in Medicaid provider facilities. The purpose of this Executive Summary is to report on activities which occurred in fiscal year 2006-07.

OVERVIEW OF MFCU

There are 232 authorized positions within the MFCU. Of the total positions, 139 are investigators and investigator supervisors/managers, 26 are attorneys, and the remaining are professional support positions including auditors, analysts, paralegals and administrative staff.

The primary investigative focuses of the MFCU are Medicaid fraud investigations and Patient Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation (PANE) cases. Each office has separate squads/investigators assigned to fraud investigations and to PANE cases. The attorneys within the unit provide legal advice to the investigative staff for both case types. Prosecution has traditionally been handled by the local State Attorney's Offices (SAO) or the Office of Statewide Prosecution. However, recent efforts have resulted in the cross designation of additional MFCU attorneys by SAO and United States Attorney's Offices; thus enabling MFCU attorneys to prosecute cases generated by the Unit.

ARRESTS

Regarding arrests or warrants issued based upon MFCU criminal investigations, there were 109 arrests/warrants made in FY 2006-07.

CONVICTIONS

There were 46 convictions/pre-trial interventions in connection with the active criminal cases handled during FY 2006-07.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL RECOVERIES

The MFCU is responsible for criminal enforcement, which may include restitution, fines, investigative costs and forfeitures. Additionally, Qui Tam cases, which were handled by several field offices, most particularly Tallahassee and Tampa, are now being handled centrally by the Complex Civil Enforcement Bureau (CCEB). The data for the recoveries includes recoveries from criminal cases, civil settlements and Qui Tam settlements. In FY 2006-07, total recoveries for the MFCU were \$70,114,222.

INITIATIVES

During FY 2006-07, there were several enforcement initiatives involving partnerships with state and federal agencies. These initiatives, included but were not limited to, fraud involving durable medical equipment providers, home health services providers, patient abuse and neglect in nursing homes or assisted living facilities and a multi-agency strike force in south Florida.