



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

June 2021 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

CR 2:21-cr-00425-JFW

Plaintiff,

I N D I C T M E N T

v.

[18 U.S.C. § 641: Theft of Government Property; 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c): Criminal Forfeiture]

GURGEN ISRAYELYAN,

Defendant.

The Grand Jury charges:

COUNTS ONE THROUGH THREE

[18 U.S.C. §§ 641, 2]

A. INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

At times relevant to this Indictment:

1. Saint Christopher Hospice, Inc. ("SCH") was a hospice agency located at 4605 Lankershim Boulevard, Suite 704, North Hollywood, California 91602. SCH discharged all patients and ceased operating in or around September 2019.

2. Defendant GURGEN ISRAYELYAN was the owner and Chief Executive Officer of SCH.

1           3. Defendant ISRAYELIAN controlled and was a signatory on  
2 a business checking account ending in x6658, in the name of SCH,  
3 held at a bank in Los Angeles County (the "SCH Bank Account").

4           The CARES Act Provider Relief Fund

5           4. In March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid,  
6 Relief, and Economic Security ("CARES") Act, which was designed  
7 to provide emergency financial assistance to the millions of  
8 Americans suffering due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

9           5. The CARES Act appropriated moneys to help health care  
10 providers ("Providers") that were financially impacted by COVID-  
11 19, as well as to provide care to patients who were suffering  
12 from COVID-19 and compensate providers for the cost of that care  
13 (the "Provider Relief Fund"). The United States Department of  
14 Health and Human Services ("HHS"), through its agency, the  
15 Health Resources and Services Administration ("HRSA"), oversaw  
16 and administered the Provider Relief Fund.

17           6. In order to rapidly provide funding to Providers  
18 during the pandemic, HRSA distributed payments under the CARES  
19 Act Provider Relief Fund ("Provider Relief Fund Payment" or  
20 "Payment") to Providers who: (a) billed Medicare fee-for-service  
21 (Parts A or B) in Calendar Year 2019; (b) were not currently  
22 terminated from participation in Medicare or precluded from  
23 receiving payment through Medicare Advantage or Part D; (c) were  
24 not currently excluded from participation in Medicare, Medicaid,  
25 and other Federal health care programs; and (d) did not  
26 currently have Medicare billing privileges revoked. Providers  
27 meeting these criteria automatically received the Provider  
28 Relief Fund Payment and did not have to apply for the funding

1 but were required to comply with the terms and conditions of the  
2 Provider Relief Fund ("Terms and Conditions") if they retained  
3 such funding.

4 Terms and Conditions of Provider Relief Payment

5 7. Provider Relief Fund recipients attested to their  
6 compliance with the Terms and Conditions in one of two ways.  
7 First, Provider Relief Fund recipients were notified that they  
8 could submit an attestation through an online portal confirming  
9 receipt of the funds and agreeing to the Terms and Conditions.  
10 Second, recipients were notified that, if they kept the money  
11 for a period that exceeded 90 days from receipt, they were  
12 deemed to have accepted the Terms and Conditions of the Provider  
13 Relief Fund.

14 8. Providers who attested to the Terms and Conditions  
15 acknowledged that their commitment to full compliance with the  
16 terms and conditions was material to the HHS Secretary's  
17 decision to disburse Provider Relief Fund Payments to them.  
18 Providers further acknowledged that noncompliance with any Term  
19 or Condition could cause the HHS Secretary to recoup some or all  
20 of the Payment.

21 9. Providers who attested to the Terms and Conditions  
22 certified that they:

- 23 a. billed Medicare in Calendar Year 2019;
- 24 b. provided diagnoses, testing, or care for  
25 individuals with possible or actual cases of COVID-19 after  
26 January 31, 2020;

1 c. were not then terminated from participation in  
2 Medicare or precluded from receiving payment through Medicare  
3 Advantage or Part D;

4 d. were not then excluded from participation in  
5 Medicare, Medicaid, and other Federal health care programs;

6 e. did not then have Medicare billing privileges  
7 revoked;

8 f. would only use the Payment to prevent, prepare  
9 for, and respond to coronavirus, and that the Payment would  
10 reimburse the recipient only for health-care-related expenses or  
11 lost revenues that were attributable to coronavirus;

12 g. provided information relating to the Payment that  
13 was true, accurate, and complete and that any deliberate  
14 omission, misrepresentation, or falsification of any information  
15 was punishable by, inter alia, criminal penalties, including but  
16 not limited to imprisonment; and

17 h. would maintain appropriate records and cost  
18 documentation to substantiate the reimbursement of costs under  
19 the disbursement.

20 B. THEFT OF GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

21 10. On or about April 20, 2020, in Los Angeles County,  
22 within the Central District of California, and elsewhere,  
23 defendant ISRAYELIAN knowingly and willfully stole, purloined,  
24 and converted to his own use and the use of another money of  
25 HHS, a department of the United States, namely, the following  
26 amounts, each exceeding \$1,000, of an approximately \$89,163  
27 payment from the HHS Provider Relief Fund that was deposited in  
28 the SCH Bank Account on or about April 17, 2020, to which

1 defendant ISRAYELYAN knew he was not entitled, with the intent  
2 to deprive HHS of the use and benefit of that money:

COUNT	APPROX. AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
ONE	\$10,000	International wire transfer to A.I.
TWO	\$10,000	Cash withdrawal
THREE	\$60,000	Purchase of cashier's check

FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

[18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

11. Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, notice is hereby given to defendant GURGEN ISRAYELYAN that the United States of America will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of defendant's conviction under this Indictment.

12. Defendant ISRAYELYAN, if so convicted, shall forfeit to the United States of America the following:

a. all right, title, and interest in any and all property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any proceeds traceable to the offense; and

b. To the extent such property is not available for forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property described in subparagraph a.

13. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any defendant so convicted shall forfeit substitute property, up to the value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if, as the result of any act or omission of defendant, the property described in the preceding paragraph or any portion thereof (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or

1 (e) has been commingled with other property that cannot be  
2 divided without difficulty.

3  
4 A TRUE BILL

5  
6 /S/

7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Foreperson

8  
9 TRACY L. WILKISON  
Acting United States Attorney

10  
11 

12 SCOTT M. GARRINGER  
13 Assistant United States Attorney  
14 Chief, Criminal Division

15 RANEE A. KATZENSTEIN  
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