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Fugitive found in Philippines

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A suspected Medicaid-fraud fugitive of eight years from the Daytona Beach area was tracked to the Philippines and arrested, officials said Friday.



Feldman

Jerome Howard Feldman, 69, was arrested early in February, according to the Florida Attorney General's Office, and is being held in Guam.

Investigators believe Feldman -- a former psychiatrist and Medicaid provider who had offices in Daytona Beach, Melbourne and St. Petersburg -- and a group of seven co-conspirators defrauded Florida's Medicaid program of more than \$1.3 million between April 1998 and September 1999, a report states. The group primarily dealt with HIV and AIDS patients.

Feldman would bill the Medicaid program for large quantities of AIDS infusion therapy drugs but never provided the drugs to several patients and even billed for patients no longer being treated, the report states.

Additionally, investigators contend Feldman and the co-conspirators created several fictional corporations and bank accounts to conceal proceeds, as well as devising a kickback scheme with a South Florida pharmacy to bill Florida Medicaid for diverted drugs. The diverted drugs were then resold to the prescription wholesale market by the co-conspirators.

In April 2001, the Attorney General's Office charged Feldman with criminal racketeering, conspiracy to commit racketeering, Medicaid fraud, grand theft, money laundering and dealing in stolen property. Feldman fled before trial and was not located until he was recognized in the Philippines.

Feldman faces federal wire fraud charges in New York, according to the Attorney General's Office. He will be extradited to Florida when the federal case is concluded.

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