

Prosecuting Elder Abuse

The bureau operates three programs designed to bring increased accountability to those who abuse California's elderly and dependent adult population.

Violent Crimes Unit: investigates and prosecutes the physical and mental abuse of elder and dependent adults, acts committed by individual employees against patients in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. Such crimes include homicide, rape, false imprisonment, financial, cyber-crimes, assault and battery.

Facilities Enforcement Team: investigates and prosecutes corporate entities, such as skilled nursing homes, hospitals, and residential care facilities, for adopting policies or promoting practices that lead to neglect and/or poor quality of care. Institutional neglect or substandard care includes: failure to provide medical care for physical and mental health needs, failure to attend to hygiene concerns, failure to provide adequate staffing, failure to prevent malnutrition and dehydration and falsification of patient charts.

Operation Guardians: helps protect and improve the quality of care for California's elder and dependent adult residents residing in California's approximately 1300 skilled nursing facilities. The team identifies instances of abuse and neglect for further investigation and possible criminal or civil prosecution by the BMFEA.

Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse Northern California

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Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud & Elder Abuse



Mission Statement

Investigate and prosecute, both criminally and civilly, health care providers who defraud the Medi-Cal program and those who abuse or neglect elderly and dependent adults in care facilities.

Vision Statement

To lead the nation as the premier Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, combatting healthcare fraud and the abuse of elderly and dependent adults.

Core Values

Excellence, Integrity, Justice, Professionalism, Respect



BMFEA Hotline Number
1-800-722-0432

Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse (BMFEA)

The Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse (the Bureau or BMFEA) aggressively investigates and prosecutes those who rob taxpayers of millions of dollars each year and divert scarce health care resources from California's Medi-Cal program. BMFEA aggressively protects patients in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities from abuse or neglect. BMFEA is recognized nationally and statewide for its many dedicated efforts.

BMFEA Enforcement Section

BMFEA's Special Agents, Forensic and Investigative Auditors, and Prosecutors investigate a wide range of fraud inflicted to the Medi-Cal program and elder/dependent adult abuse, and prosecute those who directly or indirectly commit fraud, including those who file false claims for medical services, drugs, or supplies. Such perpetrators may be registered Medi-Cal providers who allow others to use their billing privileges, or crooks who tap into the billing privileges of registered providers. They may be identity thieves who steal information from providers and patients, at times working with those who accept payment for using a particular provider or for selling their Medi-Cal identities.

Suspects can encompass anyone who is involved in the administration of the Medi-Cal program, including government workers and employees of contracting agencies.

Types of BMFEA Cases

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Verbal/Mental Abuse
- Financial Abuse
- Fraud
- Neglect
- False Imprisonment
- Resident to Resident Abuse
- Cyber-Crimes
- Civil False Claims Act and Unfair Business Practice Litigation
- Identity Theft of Licensed Providers
- In-home Support Services Abuse
- Unlicensed Care
- Prescription Drug Diversion



BMFEA Services to Local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA)

- Coordinate statewide investigations of crimes based on Medi-Cal Fraud and elder abuse that exceed local jurisdictional boundaries
- Facilitate access to relevant facilities to obtain records
- Assist in developing proven investigative strategies to address Medi-Cal fraud and elder abuse crimes
- Utilize extensive investigative experience of BMFEA special agents to conduct surveillance, manage undercover operations, prepare and execute search warrants, and assist LEAs in filing cases for prosecution
- Coordinate with other DOJ investigative units; such as narcotic task forces, fugitive apprehension teams, and gang suppression units, as necessary to accomplish operational goals
- Apply state-of-the-art technology to surveillance and the gathering of evidence, to include the use of fully equipped surveillance vehicles
- Work with our federal law enforcement counterparts, where appropriate, to secure federal prosecution of perpetrators