

## Eli's Hospice Insider

### Hospice News: Keep Tabs On Your Employees Or Pay The Price

Keep a close eye on your employees with purchasing power, or you may end up bilked of hundreds of thousands of dollars like two hospices.

Case #1: From January 2003 to March 2011, **Jeffrey Mohamed** was chief of information technology for the **Hospice Care Network** headquartered in Woodbury, N.Y., reports Newsday newspaper in Long Island, N.Y. Nassau County prosecutors say he embezzled more than \$243,000 from his employer by making unauthorized purchases of computers, televisions and other electronic equipment.

Mohamed made the purchases through the hospice's accounts and then returned the items for a credit to his personal account or by selling the equipment and keeping the proceeds. Managers at Hospice Care Network discovered the theft during a review of open orders for IT equipment from a vendor, according to Newsday.

Case #2: Former bookkeeper and office manager **Sandra Lea Morrison** has been convicted of embezzling more than \$171,000 from **Hospice of Missoula** in Montana over four years, reports the Missoulian newspaper. Morrison transferred more than \$127,000 from hospice bank accounts to her personal account, issued paychecks to herself totaling nearly \$25,000 beyond her regular pay, reimbursed herself for about \$15,500 in office supplies, and paid herself \$3,440 for vacation time she hadn't earned. Morrison used the funds for her keno gambling habit, Morrison told the judge at a sentencing hearing.

Insurance didn't cover the cost of Morrison's theft, hospice director **Kit Jackson** told the judge, the paper reported. Morrison was sentenced to 20 years in prison, with all but 2.5 years suspended. And she must repay the stolen funds plus a fee.