

Eli's Hospice Insider

Hospice News: Louisiana Medicare Fraudster Pleads Guilty To State Charges As Well

A former hospice owner has been sentenced in state court to five years in prison after pleading guilty in federal court to a Mississippi fraud scheme last year.

Last October, **Charline Brandon**, owner of Cleveland, Mississippi-based hospices **Haven Hospice**, **North Haven Hospice**, **Lion Hospice**, and **North Lion Hospice**, admitted to billing Medicare for medically unnecessary services and services never provided in a \$13 million scheme, as well as recruiting ineligible patients.

In Arkansas, **Bridge of Faith Hospice and Palliative Care** in Helena was set up in the name of Brandon's son, but Charline Brandon wrote most of the checks, reports the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Brandon admitted to submitting false claims via the hospice, pleading guilty to Medicaid fraud and state tax fraud in March.

In addition to the state prison term, the judge ordered Brandon to pay about \$580,000 in restitution. Brandon faces sentencing for her federal crimes in October, the newspaper says.