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Psychologist facing Medicaid fraud charges

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A Woodlands psychologist is facing felony charges for Medicaid fraud and aggregate theft, but his attorney calls the allegations "outrageous."

Dr. Matthew Hamilton Leddy, 51, allegedly defrauded Medicaid by billing for unperformed services for more than 60 patients, according to his indictments handed down by a Montgomery County grand jury June 18.

The indictment was sealed until Leddy turned himself into the Montgomery County Jail late last week. He has since been released after posting a \$110,000 bond.

The aggregate theft charge accuses Leddy of taking between \$100,000 and \$200,000 for unperformed services between February 2003 and November 2007 for 67 patients. The time period for each alleged theft varies by patient.

The Medicaid fraud charge alleges that between March 30,

2003, and Dec. 11, 2006, Leddy "made a misrepresentation of a material fact" by providing psychological testing services to Medicaid recipients "when said service was not provided" to the state of Texas, the National Heritage Insurance Company and Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partners for payment by Medicaid, according to the indictment. The alleged value taken is more than \$200,000.

Medicaid fraud is a first-degree felony punishable by five to 99 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine. Aggregate theft is a second-degree felony punishable by two to 20 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

The names listed in the indictment are all patients of Leddy, who practices in the Houston metropolitan area, said Phillip Hilder, Leddy's attorney. Hilder denies the allegations by Medicaid and insists on Leddy's innocence.

"The allegations are reckless and irresponsible, and we intend to vigorously fight these outrageous claims," Hilder said.

The Texas Attorney General's Office will be trying the case against Leddy in the 9th state District Court of Judge Fred Edwards. Officials with the Attorney's General's Office did not want to comment Wednesday on specifics of the case because of the ongoing investigation, a spokesman said.

Leddy is a licensed psychologist in Texas, and no disciplinary action has ever been taken against him, according to Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists records.

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