



Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of Inspector General

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 6, 2026

FIGHTING FRAUD **Protecting Veterans. Ensuring Accountability. Delivering Results.**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) has issued the “[Inspector General’s Fraud Watch](#)” to highlight recent enforcement actions and investigative efforts to stop fraud.

The VA OIG plays a crucial role in safeguarding the integrity of VA programs and protecting those who have served by stopping and deterring fraud, waste and crimes against VA and veterans, and recommending efficiencies in VA operations and programs to prevent fraud.

Through close collaboration with VA personnel, federal law enforcement partners and the Department of Justice, the OIG investigates and deters fraudulent and criminal conduct and disrupts complex fraud schemes.

Recent highlights include:

- The [former Executive Director](#) of the Office of Electronic Health Record Modernization (OEHRM) was indicted for alleged failure to disclose his receipt of thousands of dollars in cash, casino chips, gift cards and other gifts from contractors while leading this \$16 billion project.
- The nephew of a quadriplegic veteran, who was supposedly residing with and providing care for his uncle, was sentenced to 156 months’ imprisonment after [concealing his uncle’s death for several years and stealing over \\$1.8 million](#) of the veteran’s VA and Social Security benefits.
- The owner of a barbering and cosmetology school was sentenced to 96 months’ imprisonment and ordered to pay restitution to VA of approximately \$2.9 million after being found guilty by a federal jury of [enrolling veterans in classes without providing any actual instruction or training](#).
- A [drug and alcohol rehabilitation center](#) agreed to pay \$19.75 million to resolve allegations that it overbilled VA using a variety of schemes, including billing for treatments not provided, while failing to provide high-quality care to veterans by qualified clinicians.

- A defendant pleaded guilty to [stealing VA compensation benefits](#) totaling approximately \$225,000 intended for an elderly veteran who was unable to manage his own money.
- A charity founder and four employees submitted falsified documentation as part of a [pension application fraud scheme](#), costing VA \$20 million, and improperly demanded payments from veterans for pension benefits for which they were not actually entitled.

VA OIG has active investigations in several fraud categories including healthcare, procurement, fiduciary, education, compensation, pension, service-disabled veteran-owned small business and mortgage loans.

The fraud mission is clear: deter and stop fraud, protect veterans, uphold integrity and ensure accountability across VA programs. For more information on the VA OIG's work to fight fraud, take a closer look at our [investigative updates](#) and [oversight reports](#) at www.vaog.gov.

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