

On August 25, 1999, the Ramsey County Court, St. Paul, MN, formally accepted guilty pleas entered by Richard J. Anderson and pronounced sentence in the case.

Anderson, a licensed psychologist, practicing in Trempealeau, WI, pled guilty to one count of theft by swindle in excess of \$35,000 and one count of medical assistance fraud in excess of \$2,500. The pleas were made in connection with charges that he submitted false billings to the Minnesota Medical Assistance Program. As part of his plea agreement, Anderson agreed not to bill any government program for his services for the rest of his life. Anderson was sentence on the count of theft by swindle to a \$30 fine and 20 years probation, and to the count of medical assistance fraud, a sentence of 10 years probation. A total restitution of \$58,000 was ordered for both counts.

The investigation of Anderson was based on information that he had billed for services not rendered and had inflated charges and times for other services. Anderson's false billing practices extended beyond the Minnesota Medical Assistance Program to include false claims to TRICARE (formerly CHAMPUS, the Civilian Health and Medical Program for the Uniformed Services).