



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REVISED PRESS RELEASE - Indictment on 1/15/09

**NEW CASTLE MAN INDICTED FOR
DEFRAUDING NON-PROFIT HOSPICE CARE PROVIDER**

David C. Weiss, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, announced today that Paul Cornish, age 33, of New Castle, was indicted by a federal grand jury on January 15, 2009. Mr. Cornish was charged with six counts of mail fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1341. Each of these counts is punishable by a maximum term of 30 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$1,000,000.

The Indictment alleges that Mr. Cornish, who served as the Information Technology director for the Delaware Hospice from January 2007 through May 2008, engaged in a months-long scheme to defraud the Hospice. The Hospice is a nonprofit hospice organization serving the state of Delaware. Its staff members provide hospice and palliative care to individuals with a limited life expectancy, and also provide various forms of assistance to those individuals' families and care givers.

The Indictment alleges that from approximately March 2007 through May 2008, the defendant placed various orders on behalf of the Hospice for large amounts of electronic equipment, which was in turn delivered to Hospice offices. These electronic equipment orders included orders for large numbers of laptop and handheld computers, which pursuant to invoices submitted by the defendant, were paid for by the Hospice.

The Hospice never actually used the equipment. Instead, the Indictment alleges the defendant removed the equipment from the Hospice and used it for his own personal gain – in many cases, selling the equipment to third parties and keeping the money he received for himself. When questioned about the deliveries by Hospice staff, the Indictment alleges that the defendant made a number of knowingly false statements about the deliveries. The Indictment also alleges that the defendant created fraudulent documents that made it appear as if the electronic equipment was located at the Hospice, or had been returned to a vendor, when that

was not the case. As part of his scheme, the defendant is alleged to have converted over \$200,000 worth of electronic equipment purchased by the Hospice for his own personal gain.

The case was investigated by the Delaware State Police and the United States Secret Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Christopher J. Burke.

Members of the public are reminded that an Indictment is only an allegation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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