



United States Attorney's Office  
District of Columbia

Channing D. Phillips  
Acting United States Attorney

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Virginia Man sentenced to 13 Months in Jail for Identity Theft**

*--man pretended to be licensed medical doctor and forged doctors' names on prescriptions--*

WASHINGTON - Mansour Salahmand was sentenced today to 13 months in prison for impersonating a doctor, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips, Dwight Jackson, Acting Regional Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS - OIG), Cathy L. Lanier, Chief, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Shawn A. Johnson, Special Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and Charles J. Willoughby, District of Columbia Inspector General. Salahmand, 53, most recently of Sterling Virginia, pleaded guilty on August 14, 2009, to identity theft. Salahmand was sentenced in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before the Honorable Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, and will begin serving his sentence after completing a term of imprisonment in Virginia on an unrelated state charge. Judge Kollar-Kotelly also ordered the defendant to pay approximately \$16,800 in restitution and to serve three years of supervised release.

According to government evidence provided at sentencing, Salahmand obtained employment as a medical doctor at various mental health clinics primarily serving children; indeed at some clinics he was hired as a medical director and was the sole "physician" employed. During the time frame of the indictment, the defendant was hired at eight different clinics in the District of Columbia and Maryland, where he pretended that he was a doctor and prescribed medicine, using the identities of four different victim doctors. In truth, the defendant was never a licensed medical doctor, and was not authorized to practice medicine. He also lacked the authority to prescribe controlled substances, as he did not hold the necessary DEA registration number or state and local licenses.

Over the course of the scheme, more than 200 patients saw Salahmand believing him to be a licensed medical doctor capable and authorized to treat mental health illnesses. During this time, the defendant wrote approximately 226 prescriptions for controlled substances for

patients in the District of Columbia and Maryland. For each of these prescriptions, the defendant forged the signatures of a doctor. None of the doctors gave the defendant permission to sign their names.

In announcing the sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips, Regional Special Agent in Charge Jackson, MPD Chief Lanier, Special Agent in Charge Johnson, and Inspector General Willoughby commended DEA Diversion Investigators LaVerne L. Stevenson-Maye and Majorie E. Palmer-Nisby, MPD Detectives Samuel Woodson and Karen Taylor, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit Criminal Investigator Sandra Adams, HHS OIG Investigative Assistant Sonja Larsen, and, in particular, HHS OIG Special Agent Tracy McFadden, the lead case agent on the investigation. In addition, they commended U.S. Attorney's Office Paralegal Specialists Diane Hayes, Tasha Harris, and Maggie McCabe, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Virginia Cheatham, who prosecuted the case.

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