# MORGAN & MORGAN

# Legal Assistance for Healthcare Fraud Whistleblowers A Guide



# Taking A Stand

Have you ever witnessed or been made aware of fraud and/or abuse of federal government healthcare services or funds at your workplace? If so, it may be in your best interest to file a whistleblower complaint. It's also the right thing to do.

When agencies, businesses, and contractors engage in government healthcare fraud, they hurt the nation as a whole, and especially people in need. You have the power to prevent this abuse, and make sure that government healthcare resources go to the people who need them — not into the pockets of scammers and thieves.

The federal government has a series of laws on the books that incentivize whistleblowers to come forward, and help protect them when they do. That's why, though filing a whistleblower complaint may seem complicated and intimidating, you can navigate the process smoothly and safely with the right legal team at your side. In certain cases, you may even be eligible for significant financial compensation and rewards.

So if you've seen or otherwise discovered federal resource fraud at your workplace, call the Morgan & Morgan whistleblower team today for a free consultation.

# What Government Healthcare Fraud Looks Like

Fraud abuse of government healthcare funds and services can take many forms, but it most often falls into one of the following categories:

- **Performing Unnecessary Services:** Federal programs like Medicare and Medicaid are only supposed to pay for medically necessary services. Health care providers who charge the government for unnecessary services are committing fraud.
- **Improperly Charging For Services:** Some health care agencies and contractors have been caught charging lower prices to regular patients for the same medication or procedure, while charging the government full price.
- Less-Qualified Personnel Provide Services: To save money, some agencies and contractors will use less-qualified personnel like nurses or PAs to provide services, while charging the rate of a more qualified and more expensive doctor.

- **Taking Kickbacks:** Sometimes doctors, vendors, or other contractors will offer their counterparts kickbacks in order to solicit referrals or other business. This bypassing of the open market is fraud.
- **Upcoding:** This is when a health care provider bills the government for a more expensive service or procedure than the cheaper one that was performed or provided.

Government healthcare fraud and abuse results in people getting lower-quality and/or less of the care they need, and lets criminals and scammers get rich. If you see this happening at your workplace, you have the power to stop it.

# **Staying Protected**

Federal whistleblower law protects you from retaliation. This means that if you come forward and accuse your employer or other parties at your workplace of engaging in government healthcare fraud, no one is allowed to to fire you, suspend you, harass you, or otherwise do anything to punish you for your lawful and moral actions.

All of the following are considered illegal retaliatory actions:

- Being fired
- Suspension, with or without pay
- Demotion in pay or responsibility
- · Harassment or discrimination
- Denial of benefits, bonuses, or promotions
- Being made to feel unsafe or threatened
- · Imposition of penalties or sanctions

If you are retaliated against, you have the right to sue your employer and may win compensation. This compensation can take many forms depending on the situation, such as:

- If fired, reinstatement to your position, salary, and benefits
- Double the back pay lost as a result of termination or suspension, with interest
- · Legal costs and attorney fees
- Other damages and compensation

If you have been retaliated against, having a qualified whistleblower team on your side is essential. Don't wait. Call Morgan & Morgan for a free consultation.

# Ready To Fight For You

If you have seen or been made aware of government healthcare fraud in your workplace, you have the opportunity to do the right thing and help make sure that the people who need government health services continue to get them in full. You can do this and still protect yourself by working with a Morgan & Morgan whistleblower attorney.

Filing a whistleblower claim can be a complex and intimidating process, but with our help, you'll have your best chance at making a difference while staying safe. Our whistleblower team is made up of experienced attorneys and investigators, including former federal agents. They know how the system works, and they will do everything possible to advance your claim while keeping you protected from retaliation.

You'll never have to pay anything up front either. You only pay if we successfully recover compensation on your behalf. The consultation is also always 100% free and 100% discreet.

66

The consultation is always 100% free and 100% discreet



#### Does my workplace qualify for federal whistleblower laws?

A definite determination can only be made by a qualified whistleblower attorney, but generally, any business or agency that receives federal funding or is contracted to perform services for the federal government could qualify.

### What kind of compensation could I receive?

If your claim leads to the successful recovery of federal funds by the government, you could receive a percentage of the funds recovered. Additionally, if you lose your job or suffer other forms of retaliation as a result of coming forward, you may be able to sue for and potentially receive compensation.

#### What forms of retaliation would I be legally protected from?

All forms of workplace retaliation as a result of filing a whistleblower claim are illegal, including:

- · Being fired
- Suspension, with or without pay
- Demotion in pay or responsibility
- Harassment or discrimination
- Denial of benefits, bonuses, or promotions
- Being made to feel unsafe or threatened
- · Imposition of penalties or sanctions

If any of the above happens to you, you may be eligible for compensation.

# Will becoming a whistleblower protect me from prosecution?

Whistleblowers who themselves are at risk of being charged with a crime for the fraud they come forward to report do often receive immunity as part of a larger deal. But clarity on this issue in any individual situation can only be determined after consultation with a qualified whistleblower attorney.

# Can I afford to hire a lawyer?

Absolutely. Morgan & Morgan operates on the contingency-fee model, which means we only get paid if we win. There's no upfront fee, and you're not charged for any costs or fees during the case. No matter your financial situation, you can always afford top-quality legal representation.

# Who We Are



66

# We aim to give more people a chance at justice.

John Morgan founded Morgan & Morgan in 1988. The firm's first office was located in Orlando, Florida, and was made up of three attorneys, two paralegals, and a receptionist. Over the past 30 years, we've been fortunate enough to hire more than 500 attorneys and open 50 offices across the country, empowering us to reach and help even more people. We have a support staff of about 3,000 employees. These paralegals, case managers, case evaluation specialists, receptionists, and more make sure that our clients are taken care of every step of the way.

Our attorneys are dedicated to fighting for the best possible outcome for those who trust us with their cases. With that goal, we've won over \$7 billion for our clients. These wins represent so much more than just a dollar amount, though. They represent the wellbeing of our clients, which is something we take deep pride in protecting.

# **Practice Areas**

### Everywhere for Everyone.

- Birth Injuries
- Brain Injuries
- Breach of Warranty
- Burn & Fire Injuries
- · Business Litigation
- Business Interruption Claims
- Car, Truck and Motorcycle Accidents
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Civil Rights
- Class Actions & Mass Torts

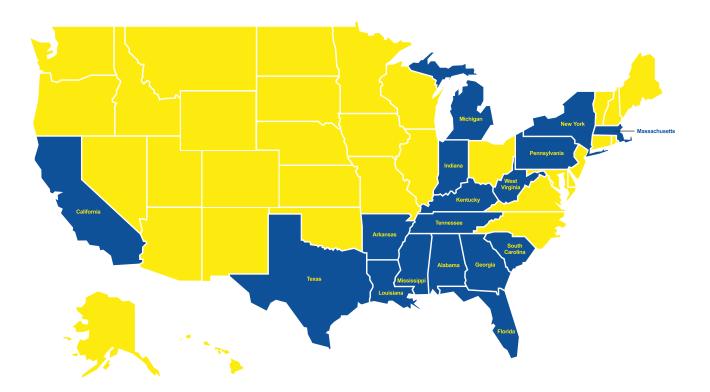
- Construction Accidents
- Deaf & Disability Rights Unit
- Dog Bites/Animal Attacks
- Employee Rights
- FCRA
- Medical Malpractice
- Mesothelioma
- Negligent Security/Premises
   Liability
- Nursing Home Abuse
- Product Liability

- Property & Life Insurance and AD&D
- Sex Trafficking
- Slip & Fall
- Social Security Disability
- Spinal Cord Injuries
- Train Accidents
- Veterans' Benefits
- Whistleblower/Qui Tam
- Workers' Compensation
- Wrongful Death

# Office Locations

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Note: We handle cases nationally, working with local counsel in states without our physical presence.



# Attorney Growth & Successes

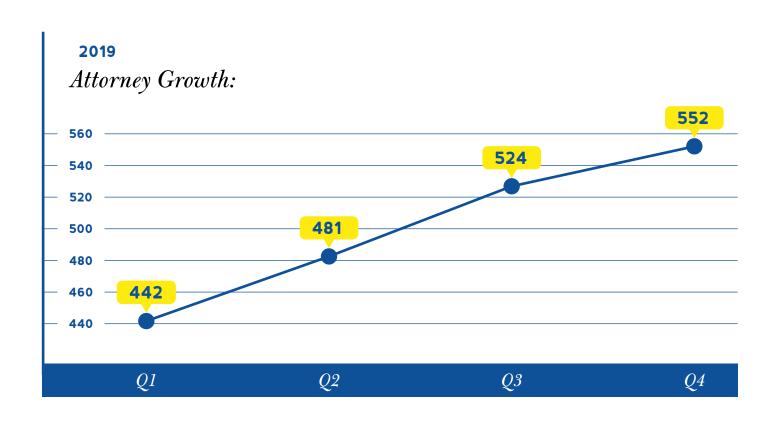
2019

Total Amount Recovered: OVER \$1 BILLION

2019

Total Cases Resolved:

50,000



# What People Say About Us

I was able to contact Morgan & Morgan via their online form from the emergency room on the day of my accident. Someone called me the next morning and set up rehab and therapy appointments right away. The following day they came to my home to begin my case. They are swift, professional and customer service-focused. After my accident, I was nervous about driving. I was very grateful that they were so accommodating.

#### - Z.A., ATLANTA, GA

I couldn't be happier with the service and the professionalism of your staff I was very satisfied with the outcome of my case. The team always returned my telephone calls in a timely manner and shared valuable as well as valid information. They were very professional and maintained a positive attitude. I would definitely use your services again if I was faced with a situation that required an attorney or legal advice and I would also refer your agency to others. Although my situation was unfortunate, I was glad to have your team on my side to get me through the difficult times. Again, I say THANK YOU.

#### - KATHY, MEMPHIS, TN

They are the most caring and personal attorneys you could ever have on your side. They genuinely make you feel like helping you in every way they can is their goal and main priority. I'd highly recommend this firm to anyone in need. They treat you as if you were a part of their family and are always seeking the best for the client.

#### - JANET, LOUISVILLE, KY

Although my situation was unfortunate, I was glad to have your team on my side to get me through the difficult times.
Again, I say thank you.

I emailed my questions and concerns and had doubt that anyone would contact me in the next 24 hours. I emailed them around 8:30 pm. I received a call the very next morning and the representative explained that after I answered her questions she would turn it over to a lawyer and then they would contact me. She answered all my questions and concerns. She gave me hope that I did the right thing. She said I should hear something in the next few days after a lawyer has time to review. I will not have to pay anything unless they win a settlement. I will receive all the information soon as to what will happen next. It has been less than 24 hours and everything is set in motion.

#### - TAMMY, ORLANDO, FL

I would just like to say that, regardless of my injuries and all that I am currently going through daily, my attorney was absolutely wonderful to me as far as listening to my concerns and thoughts and always asking if I needed anything. He made sure that he let me know that I could call him at any time for whatever I wanted to discuss regarding my case! He is a true God send and I simply love his attitude and the attention he gives to clients. From day one, this firm has gone above and beyond the call of duty making certain that I was reached out to in a very timely manner. You all ran circles and holes around the first firm! I would recommend you to family, friends, and complete strangers!

#### - ALICIA, JACKSON, MS

Unbelievably organized, responsive, and probably the most effective process-oriented group of people I've ever seen. Their preparation for mediation and trial is beyond comprehensive. Across two cases and three years, not once did anything fall between the cracks. Everyone I came into contact with exemplifies professionalism; they quickly resolved insurance issues and spent time educating me about everything affecting my cases. I trust Morgan & Morgan and I am grateful for everything they did for me. I recommend them without reservation and will miss working with them now that my civil suit is settled.

#### - JERRI, JACKSONVILLE, FL

# In the News

At Morgan & Morgan, everything we do — from the cases we take on to our wins in the courtroom — makes an impact. That's why in 2019, our legal actions, settlements, and verdicts were covered by premier national and international media outlets like The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian, and CNN, as well as local media outlets.

Here are some of our cases that made headlines in 2019.

#### **Restoring Basketball Glory**

In 2018, the NCAA imposed a penalty on the men's basketball team at the University of Louisville (Kentucky) for alleged rules violations. They had their 2013 NCAA tournament win, 2012 Final Four appearance, and individual player statistics vacated and removed from the record.

MORGAN & MORGAN
PROBINEPROPLECOM

AW (529)
PORTHEPEOPLE.COM

AW (529)
PORTHEPEOPLE.COM

DIAL #
ON YOUR CELL PHONE

DIAL #
ON YOUR

ELL PHONE

DIAL #

With the help of John Morgan, our firm's founder, the team's players sued the NCAA and last year reached a confidential settlement. The players had all their statistical achievements and personal honors restored.

Coverage appeared on ESPN, Fox Sports, and in the Associated Press, among others.

# Morgan & Morgan Attorney Named Cybersecurity MVP

Morgan & Morgan's John Yanchunis was named a 2019 MVP by Law360 — the premier national legal news service — in recognition of his work protecting the rights of consumers harmed by data breaches.

Last year, John achieved a notable victory when he and his team reached a \$117 million settlement with web giant Yahoo after a data breach compromised billions of user accounts.

#### Major Settlement in MA Gas Explosions Case

In September 2018, a series of explosions ripped through the Merrimack Valley, Massachusetts, towns of Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover. These explosions were caused by excess gas pressure in poorly built, poorly installed, and poorly maintained natural gas lines owned and operated by Columbia Gas of Massachusetts.

More than 40 homes experienced explosions and fires as a result, which caused severe damage and injury, including one death.

Morgan & Morgan's Frank Petosa took the lead in the lawsuit representing the victims, and in July 2019, a \$143 million settlement was reached.

Coverage appeared in The Washington Post and The Boston Globe, and was provided by the Associated Press.

#### Florida Powerhouse

Although we're a nationwide firm, Florida is still Morgan & Morgan's home base. This year, the firm was recognized for its achievements in the Sunshine State as a Law360 "Florida Powerhouse."

With over 350 attorneys in the state and more than two dozen offices, Morgan & Morgan has made an indelible name for itself there through litigation and impact.

#### **Fighting for a Zipline Accident Victim**

A 10-year-old boy from Lakeland, Florida, was seriously injured when his zipline harness disconnected and he fell 20 feet to the concrete below. On behalf of his family, Morgan & Morgan is pursuing legal action against the operators of the zipline facility, alleging employee error due to improper training and safety procedures.

Coverage appeared on the ABC, FOX, NBC, and CNN news channels, among others.

# Ehe New York Eimes The Washington Post WALL STREET JOURNAL POLITICO USA TODAY AP Associated Press billboard Newsweek THOMSON REUTERS Forbes FOX BUSINESS INSIDER TODAY

# We're Here For You

**30** 

**\$7**Billion Recovered

**\$0**Upfront Fees

When you take a stand against the abuse of government healthcare funds and services by calling out workplace fraud, you deserve protection from retaliation. Morgan & Morgan whistleblower attorneys can help fight for your rights against even the largest and most powerful corporations and agencies.

Morgan & Morgan has been there for the people, against the powerful for more than 30 years, and we've recovered more than \$7 billion to date for clients like you. Call today. Your case review is always free and 100% discreet, and you won't have to pay a penny unless we win.

Don't wait. We want to start helping today.

MORGAN & MORGAN