



# Doctor Sentenced To Prison, Fined For Fraud Claims

**ED GODFREY**

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A Shawnee doctor found guilty of falsifying Medicaid claims was sentenced by a federal judge Friday to 33 months in prison and ordered to pay \$50,000 in restitution.

Dr. Sidney Laughlin, 40, was found guilty by a federal jury in October on 52 of 53 counts of Medicaid fraud and four counts of mail fraud.

Laughlin, an osteopath, was convicted of falsifying claims in order to be paid for ultrasound tests and other medical procedures on pregnant Medicaid patients whose babies he later delivered.

Some of the medical procedures for which Laughlin billed Medicaid were not performed by him and other procedures were billed incorrectly, said Charles R. Lucas, director of the Oklahoma Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

U.S. District Judge Robin Cauthron ordered Laughlin to make immediate restitution to the Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

Laughlin was accused of performing Caesarean section deliveries and tubal ligations - a type of surgical sterilization - separately so he would be paid for both.

Prosecutors said the tubal ligation should have been done at the same time as the Caesarean section, but Laughlin delayed performing that surgery for weeks so he could get an additional payment for the procedure from Medicaid.

Laughlin's patients were not given sufficient time to heal from the Caesarean deliveries when the tubal ligations were performed, Lucas said. Prosecutors said the practice lasted from September 1989 until at least June 1991 and occurred at a Shawnee clinic called New Beginnings, which Laughlin operated.

Laughlin filed for bankruptcy in July 1991 and has since operated the Central Oklahoma Women's Clinic at 3330 NW 56 in Oklahoma City.  
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