Case 1:

JN/ABS:MGD					
F	#2019R00960	١			

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK				
X				
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA				
- against -				
LUIS SORIANO,				
Defendant.				

FILED	
IN CLERK'S OFFICE U.S. DISTRICT COURT E.D.A	l. Y

★ JAN 2 9 2020 ★

BROOKLYN OFFICE

INFORMATION

Cr. No. 20 - CR 4 (T. 18, U.S.C., §§ 2 and 3551 et seq.; T. 42, U.S.C., §§ 1320d-6(a)(3) and 1320d-6(b)(3))

THE UNITED STATES CHARGES:

INTRODUCTION

At all times relevant to this Information, unless otherwise indicated:

I. The Defendant and Related Entities

- 1. The defendant LUIS SORIANO was employed as a licensed emergency medical technician in the New York area since approximately 2006.
- 2. Hospital A, an entity the identity of which is known to the United States, was a hospital located in the Southern District of New York.
- 3. Hospital B, an entity the identity of which is known to the United States, was a hospital located in the Eastern District of New York.
- 4. Hospital C, an entity the identity of which is known to the United States, was a hospital located in the Eastern District of New York.
- 5. In or about and between 2009 and 2014, the defendant LUIS SORIANO was employed at Hospital A as a patient caretaker, in which capacity he worked

directly with patients. In or about and between 2014 and 2017, SORIANO was employed at Hospital B as an emergency department technician, in which capacity he worked directly with patients. In or about and between 2017 and 2019, SORIANO was employed at Hospital C as a telemetry technician, in which capacity he was responsible for remotely monitoring patient vital signs.

II. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

- 6. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 ("HIPAA"), 42 U.S.C. § 1320d, et seq., was enacted, in part, to limit the circumstances in which patients' confidential medical information ("individually identifiable health information") could be used, obtained or disclosed. HIPAA's security and privacy regulation, codified at 45 C.F.R. §§ 160 and 164, applied to health care providers, among others, who transmitted any health information in electronic form in connection with a transaction covered by the regulations.
- 7. HIPAA's criminal provision, 42 U.S.C. § 1320d-6, prohibited the use, acquisition or disclosure of individually identifiable health information maintained by a covered entity without patient authorization, unless such use, acquisition or disclosure was otherwise permitted by HIPAA and its regulations.
- 8. Hospitals A, B and C (collectively, the "Hospitals") were covered entities within the meaning of HIPAA.

III. The Scheme

- 9. In or about and between approximately June 2012 and August 2019, the defendant LUIS SORIANO, together with others, engaged in a scheme to disclose individually identifiable health information to others, contrary to HIPAA.
- 10. Specifically, in the course of his employment at each of the Hospitals, the defendant LUIS SORIANO acquired individually identifiable health information (the "Health Information") pertaining to certain patients, including the patients' names, telephone numbers, medical conditions and the approximate dates of, and reasons for, the patients' hospitalization. The Health Information acquired by SORIANO was "individually identifiable health information" within the meaning of HIPAA and was protected from unauthorized disclosure under HIPAA.
- 11. In furtherance of the scheme, the defendant LUIS SORIANO disclosed the Health Information of numerous patients at each of the Hospitals without authorization and for reasons other than permitted by HIPAA and its regulations. In particular, SORIANO disclosed the Health Information to others without authorization, including to Individual A, an individual known to the United States, in exchange for payments totaling between approximately \$100,000 and \$150,000.

WRONGFUL DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUALLY IDENTIFIABLE HEALTH INFORMATION

- 12. The allegations contained in paragraphs one through 11 are realleged and incorporated as if fully set forth in this paragraph.
- 13. In or about and between June 2012 and August 2019, both dates being approximate and inclusive, within the Eastern District of New York and elsewhere, the

defendant LUIS SORIANO, together with others, did knowingly and without authorization disclose individually identifiable health information, to wit: the names and telephone numbers of patients seeking treatment at SORIANO's places of employment, together with such patients' medical conditions and the approximate dates of, and reasons for, such patients' hospitalization, maintained by a covered entity, to wit: the Hospitals, to another person, without patient authorization and for a reason other than permitted by HIPAA and its regulations, with the intent to sell, transfer and use such individually identifiable health information for commercial advantage, personal gain and malicious harm.

(Title 42, United States Code, Sections 1320d-6(a)(3) and 1320d-6(b)(3); Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2 and 3551 et seq.)

ROBERT ZINK

CHIEF, FRAUD SECTION

CRIMINAL DIVISION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RICHARD P. DONOGHUE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

EASTERN District of NEW YORK

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

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Defendant.

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(T. 18, U.S.C., §§ 2 and 3551 <u>et seq.</u>; T. 42, U.S.C., §§ 1320d-6(a)(3), 1320d-6(b)(3))

Bail, \$ ______

Clerk

Miriam L. Glaser Dauermann, Trial Attorney, U.S. Dep't of Justice (718) 254-7575

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TO: Clerk's Office UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	FILE IN CLERK'S OF U.S. DISTRICT COUR	
APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO FILE DOCUMENT UNDER SEAL	BROOKLYN C	OFFICE
USA		A) If pursuant to a prior Court Order: Docket Number of Case in Which Entered: Judge/Magistrate Judge: Date Entered:
John Due Docket Num		
SUBMITTED BY: Plaintiff Defendant DOJ Name: Chambers Of Judge Defrey Hall Firm Name: Address:		B) If a <u>new</u> application, the statute, regulation, or other legal basis that authorizes filing under seal
Phone Number:		ORDERED SEALED AND PLACED IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE, AND MAY NOT BE UNSEALED UNLESS ORDERED BY THE COURT.
INDICATE UPON THE PUBLIC DOCKET SHEET: YES NO If yes, state description of document to be entered on docket sh	eet:	DATED: , NEW YORK
MANDATORY CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE.	<u>U.S. DI</u>	RECEIVED IN CLERK'S OFFICE DATE
		rties to this action, B.) Service is excused by 31 U.S.C. 3730(b), or by submitted, and flight public safety, or security are significant concerns.
DATE	SIGNATURE	