

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Department of Defense (DoD), announced today that on October 17, 2001, Karla Haswell and Eversley Haswell, former owners and operators of Valley Counseling, Colorado Springs, CO, were sentenced in the U.S. District Court, Denver, CO. Eversley Haswell was sentenced to 21 months imprisonment and 3 years supervised release. Karla Haswell was sentenced to 6 months home detention and 5 years probation. Eversley and Karla Haswell were ordered to jointly pay \$498,339 in restitution to TRICARE and \$26,538 in restitution to Medicare, for a total restitution amount of \$524,877.

Karla Haswell previously pled guilty on June 12, 2001, to one count of health care fraud and one count of conspiracy to defraud with respect to claims. Karla Haswell also admitted allegations contained in a criminal forfeiture count. Eversley Haswell previously pled guilty on June 21, 2001, to two counts of health card fraud and one count of conspiracy to defraud with respect to claims. Eversley Haswell also admitted allegations contained in a criminal forfeiture count.

The investigation disclosed that Karla Haswell and Eversley Haswell submitted false claims to the TRICARE and Medicare for mental health care counseling that was not provided and/or provided by an unlicensed provider. Medicare is a Federally funded health insurance program intended to help senior citizens over 65 and certain disabled persons pay their medical bills.