

Hospital worker stole 20 IDs a week

A woman admits giving admission forms of St. Anthony Central patients and license data to a friend over 18 months.

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9News

Posted: 02/05/2009 12:30:00 AM MST

A woman facing charges for stealing patient records from St. Anthony Central Hospital says she might have helped to steal many more identities than previously thought.

Dawn Philbin, 51, of Lakewood also said she lied to the hospital, where she worked, about the reasons why she gave the stolen data to accused identity-thief Paul Simmons.

According to arrest warrants, when St. Anthony Central administrators confronted Philbin on Jan. 21, she told them that a family friend forced her to take the patient records out of the hospital or he would kill her daughter. However, in an interview with 9Wants to Know on Wednesday, Philbin said she made up that story.

Instead, Philbin said, she gave the documents to Simmons, a longtime family friend, because she felt like she owed him.

"It wasn't for money; it wasn't for drugs. It was out of guilt for him helping my family," she said. "I was sucked in."

Philbin said Simmons wasn't telling the truth either when he told 9News on Tuesday that the operation was the brainchild of his friend and business partner. Philbin told 9News she handed the documents to Simmons and no one else.

In the warrants, Philbin told the hospital that Simmons "told her what types of patient information she should get, such as white men, and then she would pick the patients randomly and print out their admission forms and driver's licenses."

Hospital administrators fired Philbin after they say she admitted to the thefts.

In her interview with 9News, Philbin said she had no idea what Simmons was doing with the IDs.

Last month, 139 copies of patient records were found inside the abandoned storage unit of convicted felon Simmons, 46, along with other stolen personal documentation. It included fake and real driver's licenses, Social Security cards, birth certificates and a printer. It is believed the documents were stolen out of homes, hotel rooms, cars or St. Anthony Central over the past three years.

Philbin, who worked at St. Anthony Central for five years, told police that Simmons and his friends would contact her periodically over about a year and a half when they needed copies of documents. She told 9News she was providing about 20 identities a week to Simmons. That could mean Simmons was given records on more than 1,500 people.

The hospital admits it may not know the extent of the identity thefts.

"There quite possibly could be more (victims)," said Jim Feldbush, communications director for Centura Health, which operates St. Anthony Central. "There may be others out there we don't know about."

Philbin said she had not given Simmons and his friends any patient information in about six months.

Simmons was arraigned in court Wednesday, but he told 9News on Tuesday night in a jailhouse interview that he is not guilty and has not committed identity theft.

Philbin was arrested by Denver police on Monday night on charges of identity theft and was released on bail.

Simmons attempted to surrender to authorities on Monday night and went to the Denver City Jail. However, the Denver Sheriff's Department deputy at the jail told Simmons there was not a record of him being wanted in the computer and sent Simmons to check in with the Denver Police Department, which is housed in a building across the courtyard at 1331 Cherokee St.

Denver police said Simmons never turned himself in. He was arrested Tuesday morning in Lakewood on charges of identity theft, forgery and using instruments of forgery.

St. Anthony Central is offering a free identity-theft protection service to patients involved in the thefts. The hospital also has put new audits in place to better monitor patient data. For more information, visit Centura.org.

The stolen documents were initially discovered after Brandon Michael won an auction for the contents of Simmons' abandoned storage unit. When Michael discovered what they were, he brought them to the Denver police District 4 station, but an officer at the front desk told him police didn't want them and to throw them away.

Michael then brought the documents to 9Wants to Know.

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