

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 11, 2009

**THAI COMMUNITY TO PARTNER WITH  
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY OF LOS ANGELES  
TO IDENTIFY AND ASSIST VICTIMS OF HEALTH INSURANCE FRAUD**

Los Angeles, CA – At a press conference at the Office of the City Attorney of Los Angeles on Thursday, June 11, 2009, City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo announced a partnership between the Asian community and his office to combat the growing problem of health insurance fraud. Since creating a consumer complaint process on the web, not many Asians have filed complaints. Concerned that Asians are not aware of the resource available to them due largely to language and cultural barriers, his office decided to partner with the Asian community to ensure that Asians are outreached to and served by his office's efforts to identify and prosecute unlawful practices committed by health plans and insurers.

Representing the Thai community was the Thai Community Development Center (Thai CDC) who will partner with the Office of the City Attorney to help Thai victims of health insurance fraud. Thai CDC has also asked the Thai Association of Southern California and the Asian Pacific Healthcare Venture to join Thai CDC in assisting Thai victims.

Together with the City Attorney's office, we will assist Thais who have a complaint against a health plan or health insurer under any of these circumstances:

- The health plan or health insurer ***dropped, canceled or rescinded*** coverage.
- The health plan or health insurer unreasonable ***denied*** authorization or payment for a medical treatment or procedure.
- The health plan or health insurer unreasonably ***delayed*** authorization or payment for a medical treatment or procedure.

According to City Attorney Delgadillo, "recent news reports indicate that certain companies in the health insurance industry may be engaging in business practices that violate numerous civil consumer protection, and possibly even criminal laws. Such practices are devastating to consumers who are led to believe that they have health coverage, only to have that coverage suddenly denied after they are diagnosed with serious medical conditions. Additionally, these business practices may victimize health care providers, such as doctors and hospitals, who reportedly have been denied payment for medical services provided to patients under the reasonable belief that the patients were fully insured."

Thai CDC Executive Director, Chanchanit Martorell, further states, "with the precarious state of health for Thais already where the second leading cause of death is peptic ulcer, it becomes a matter of life and death to pursue to the fullest extent of the law any unfair denial, delay or

cancellation of health coverage. Thais are already living on the margins. To have their life hanging in the balance and at the mercy of their health plan or insurer interested solely in turning a profit would be criminal.”

To report any unlawful, fraudulent, or unfair business practices of a health plan or health insurer, please contact Thai CDC Legal Coordinator, Siriporn Denkesineelam at (323) 468-2555.

For additional information on this new law enforcement investigation by the Office of the City Attorney, please contact Thai CDC Executive Director, Chanchanit Martorell at the same number as above.

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