

KIDS founder agrees to \$45G payment in claims fraud

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NEWARK (AP) _ An adolescent treatment center and **its founder** will pay \$45,000 to settle charges they submitted about 254 insurance claims for services that were not provided or were not done by a licensed professional, as required.

The settlement with KIDS of North Jersey and **Miller Newton**, announced yesterday by the U.S. attorney's office here, concludes a lawsuit brought by the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program. KIDS and **Newton** admitted no wrongdoing.

Some of the adolescents treated at KIDS were children of federal employees enrolled in the program.

KIDS, of Secaucus, Hudson County, had been located in Bergen County. It treats youngsters for substance abuse and eating disorders. The false claims for psychological treatment were submitted between 1988 and 1992, according to the government. In some cases, the treatment was not provided by the physician named on the claim form, but by other adolescents, the government charged.

The amounts of the questioned claims, and reimbursement, were not immediately available.

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