



(December 15, 2015)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing: A Department of Veterans Affairs Nurse Convicted of Falsifying Medical Records and Computer Fraud**  
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Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Southern District of Florida

A former Department of Veterans Affairs employee pled guilty today to destroying, altering and falsifying records and committing computer fraud.

Wifredo A. Ferrer, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, and Monty Stokes, Special Agent in Charge, United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Inspector General, Criminal Investigations Division (VA-OIG), Southeast Field Office, made the announcement.

Enrique Martinez, 37, of Miami, pled guilty before United States Magistrate Judge Jonathan Goodman to destruction, alteration, and falsification of records, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1519, and computer fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030. Martinez faces a statutory maximum penalty of up to 20 years in prison.

According to court records and information presented in court, Martinez, a former nurse at the Veterans' Affairs (VA) Medical Center in Miami, obstructed a federal investigation and caused damage to the computer system of the U. S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. Martinez falsified the medical records of a 76-year old veteran who was being treated at the medical center and was directly under Martinez's responsibility. The veteran-patient died while hospitalized at the medical center. Martinez made these changes and alterations in an attempt to avoid responsibility for the poor quality of care he had provided the veteran-patient.

Mr. Ferrer commended the investigative efforts of the VA-OIG's Office of Investigations and the VA-OIG's Office of Healthcare Inspections. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Benjamin Widlanski and Jonathan Kobrinski.

Martinez is set for sentencing before United States District Judge Jose E. Martinez on February 19, 2016 at 2:00 p.m..

Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the District Court for the Southern District of Florida at www.flsd.uscourts.gov or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.