



James D. "Buddy"
CALDWELL
RESTORE
INTEGRITY & CREDIBILITY

ATTORNEY GENERAL

P.O. Box 94005 • Baton Rouge, LA 70804
225-326-6705 • www.ag.state.la.us

Tammi Arender Herring, Director of Communications
225-326-6703 (office) • 225-588-4639 (cell) • arendert@ag.state.la.us

July 28, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

ARTHUR COPES FOUND GUILTY OF INSURANCE FRAUD

BATON ROUGE, La.—Arthur Copes of Baton Rouge is found guilty today on 8 counts of insurance fraud. Judge Anthony Marabella rendered the verdict from the bench following a week's worth of testimony from former patients who flew in from all over the country to testify against him. David Caldwell, co-prosecutor, along with Butch Wilson, presented overwhelming evidence which showed Copes fraudulently billed Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana of more than \$88,000. Copes runs a clinic in Baton Rouge which provides braces for Scoliosis patients. Not only did the state's case show the insurance company was fraudulently billed for services Copes was not licensed to render but that he expected upfront payments from clients who thought they were seeing a licensed medical doctor, which Copes was not. "We are pleased that justice was served today," said Caldwell, co-counsel for the Attorney General's office. "We hope the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners will shut down Copes' clinic before any more unsuspecting scoliosis patients give up their life savings."

Copes was originally arrested on 117 counts by the Attorney General's Office. Prosecutors say these counts represent the entirety of the insurance fraud, which totals more \$777,000. Several of the counts covered different instances of fraud on the

same form. Also of note, this particular trial was specific to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana. Other insurance companies outside of Louisiana also have issues with Copes billing practices.

Copes faced 9 counts of insurance fraud and was found not guilty on count #2 because of a question concerning the date on the indictment and the date on the billing paperwork presented at trial. “This case isn’t just about the insurance dollars it’s about the people from 10 or 12 states who put their hope in Copes for a cure for their scoliosis,” said Caldwell. “Scoliosis is a condition that can only be managed, not cured. So, Copes was selling them false hope at a very high price.”

Sentencing for Copes will be held in Judge Marabella’s courtroom on November 12, 2008. Copes could receive up to 5 years in prison for each count of insurance fraud.

[END]