



LANSING CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS

Announcements:

It's time to renew your LACFE membership. Keep your membership up to date to secure discounts on trainings from LACFE and associate Chapters. [Membership | \(lansingacfe.com\)](https://lansingacfe.com)

From all of us at the LACFE, have a happy and healthy holiday season!



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Fraud Talk Podcast

The Tale of the Phantom Nonprofit - Michael Booher - Fraud Talk - Episode 137

In this haunting episode of Fraud Talk, investigate the ghostly disappearance of Phases, Inc., a Tennessee nonprofit dedicated to helping women with substance abuse issues. Tune in with Michael Booher, CFE, CPA from the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury and Rihonna Scoggins, ACFE Community Manager, to discover how this ghost story unfolds and the truths lurking in Phases, Inc.'s shadows.

<https://acfe.podbean.com/e/the-tale-of-the-phantom-nonprofit-michael-booher-fraud-talk-episode-137/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCAL:

SEMCAFCF Southwest Michigan Area Chapter –

Educational Opportunities, Stakeholder Engagement And
Supply Chain Traceability Via Due Diligence And Auditing
Monthly Meeting December 7th

St. John's Banquet & Conference Center, Southfield MI

Learn more: <https://semcacfe.org/meetinginfo.php?id=91&ts=1699748594>



Behavioral Forensics Group, LLC

(partnering with the Lansing Chapter of the ACFE)

Virtual Fraud Symposium

December 6-7, 2023

Lansing Chapter receives 40% of the fee for LACFE members that attend. Use code: MI143

Learn more: <https://my-cpe.com/virtual-events-detail/event/virtual-event-fraud-symposium>

ACFE Southwest Ohio Chapter: Fraud Vulnerabilities in Today's Contracts

Virtual

December 8, 2023

12:00 – 2:00 pm

Learn more: <https://swohacfe.org/event-5352987>

NATIONAL:

ACFE Future of Fraud | 2024 Expert Predictions

FREE Webinar

December 5, 2023

Learn more: [Event Details \(acfe.com\)](https://www.acfe.com/event-details)

ACFE Understanding the Mindset of a Fraudster

Virtual Seminar

January 30, 2024 (early registration ends January 2nd)

Learn more: [Event Details \(acfe.com\)](https://www.acfe.com/event-details)



Sourced from: www.mooselakecartoons.com

Case Study: Florida Nurse Convicted of \$200 million Medicare Fraud

October 3, 2023

<https://www.acfeinsights.com/acfe-insights/florida-nurse-convicted-of-200-million-medicare-fraud>

Medicare fraud poses a significant threat to the integrity and sustainability of the Medicare program. Various estimates suggest Medicare fraud drains up to \$60 billion from the healthcare system each year. This massive level of fraud not only harms taxpayers but also jeopardizes medical care for the 59 million Americans who rely on Medicare. With 10,000 new Medicare enrollees daily and rising healthcare costs, addressing fraud is crucial for Medicare's future solvency and ability to deliver services.

Types of Medicare Fraud

- **Billing for services not performed** - This is one of the most common types of fraud, where a provider bills Medicare for appointments, tests, procedures or other services that did not actually happen.
- **Misrepresenting services** - Providers may bill for a more complex or expensive service than was performed in order to receive higher reimbursement. For example, billing for a 1-hour psychotherapy session when only a 15-minute medication management appointment was done.
- **Overcharging for services** - Providers bill for unnecessary services, bill multiple times for the same service or charge excessively for services performed.
- **Kickbacks** - Providers may receive kickbacks for referring patients to a specific healthcare company or for prescribing certain medical equipment and devices. This violates anti-kickback laws.
- **Identity theft** - Fraudsters steal beneficiary ID numbers to submit false claims.

Case Study

A recent and troubling Medicare fraud case in Florida involved nurse practitioner Elizabeth Hernandez, who was convicted of fraudulently billing over \$200 million for unnecessary

orthotic braces and genetic testing. She participated in an elaborate telemarketing scheme that persuaded Medicare patients to request braces and tests they did not need.

Hernandez was sent pre-filled orders by the fraudulent telemarketing companies and signed off on them without ever examining or speaking to the patients - in some cases fraudulently claiming to have seen over 24 patients in a single day. She pocketed \$1.6 million that she used for luxury cars, jewelry, home renovations and trips.

This type of fraud steals from taxpayers and compromises patient care. It also contributes to rising healthcare costs for all Americans. This highlights the importance of proper Medicare oversight and auditing controls to detect such large-scale fraud.

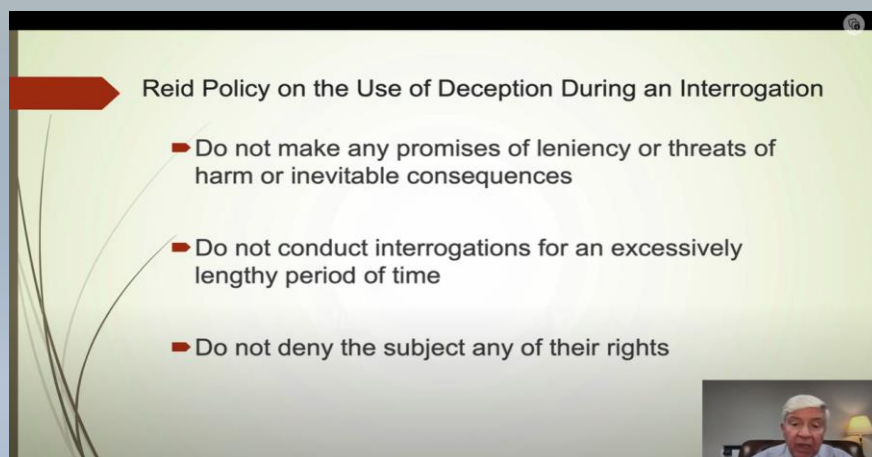
This case exemplifies the relevance of consumer education so that Medicare beneficiaries understand their rights and are not taken advantage of by fraudulent schemes. Patients should be cautious of any provider who bills Medicare for services or equipment that seem unnecessary or for appointments that did not occur.

As this case demonstrates, Medicare fraud often involves large criminal networks intent on stealing billions, not just isolated incidents of overbilling. Comprehensive anti-fraud measures are needed to prevent such schemes and protect Medicare for future generations. With proper safeguards against unethical providers, improved auditing and consumer education, the program can continue fulfilling its vital purpose of providing healthcare for Americans who rely on Medicare's services.

Video of the Month

[Reid Policy on the Use of Deception During an Interrogation - YouTube](#)

Details guidelines and policies investigators should follow regarding misrepresenting evidence during an interrogation.



Emerging Trends in Fraud Law: What Professionals Need to Know

By Stephanie Gordon

November 14, 2023

<https://www.acfeinsights.com/acfe-insights/emerging-trends-fraud-law>

In the ever-evolving landscape of fraud, staying informed about emerging trends is not just a choice — it is a necessity. As professionals in the field of fraud prevention, we understand that knowledge is our most potent weapon against the ever-adaptive tactics of fraudsters.

In this blog, we will delve into these trends and explore how to prevent fraud schemes, scams and social engineering exploits. We will also shed light on how machine learning and real-time verification can be leveraged to protect against phishing and the automation of financial crimes. Let us explore this topic to equip ourselves with the knowledge to combat emerging fraud.

Current Trends in Fraud Law: A Brief Overview

Fraud is a serious and costly problem that affects individuals, businesses and financial institutions. Fraud involves the intentional use of deception or misrepresentation to obtain an unfair or unlawful advantage. In the digital age, fraudsters have more ways to exploit vulnerabilities and defraud unsuspecting victims.

According to the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), the median loss caused by fraud is a staggering \$3.6 million. Account takeover fraud, the fastest-growing type of fraud, witnessed a 74% increase in losses in 2021. Synthetic identity fraud, a growing concern, accounted for \$24 billion in losses in 2020.

It not only highlights the importance of robust internal controls and expert fraud lawyers but also emphasizes the need for financial institutions to implement AI and machine learning, along with multiple detection methods.

Fraud Trends to Watch Out for in 2024

The world of fraud is constantly evolving, with new scams and schemes emerging all the time. This means that fraud law professionals need to stay up-to-date on the latest trends in order to effectively represent their clients.

Here are some of the emerging trends in fraud law that professionals need to know about:

Synthetic identity theft: Synthetic identity theft is a type of fraud in which criminals create new identities by piecing together elements of a person's personal information, such as name, date of birth and Social Security number, and combining them with false identifiers. Synthetic identities can then be used to open bank accounts, obtain credit cards and commit other types of fraud.

Deepfakes: Deepfakes are videos or audio recordings that have been manipulated to make it appear as if someone is saying or doing something they never actually said or did. Deepfakes can be used to commit fraud in a variety of ways, such as impersonating a celebrity to endorse a product or service or creating fake videos of someone committing a crime.

Account takeover fraud: Account takeover fraud occurs when a criminal gains access to a victim's online account, such as a social media account, email account or bank account. Once the criminal has access to the account, they can use it to steal money, commit identity theft or spread malware.

Cryptocurrency scams: Cryptocurrency scams are on the rise as more and more people invest in cryptocurrencies. These scams can take many different forms, such as fake cryptocurrency exchanges, investment scams and phishing emails.

Insider threats: Insider threats are fraud schemes that are committed by employees or other individuals who have access to privileged information. Insider threats can be very difficult to detect and prevent, and they can cause significant damage to businesses and organizations.

Fraud law professionals who are aware of these emerging trends will be better equipped to represent their clients and protect them from fraud.

The Growing Need for Multi-Layered Fraud Prevention

In the relentless battle against fraud, traditional prevention methods often fall short in addressing the ever-evolving tactics of fraudsters. The surge in fraud cases, including the prevalent takeover through sim swap fraud, underlines the urgency to innovate. A single layer of defense is no longer sufficient. To tackle the escalating fraud risk, it is imperative to adopt a multi-layered approach.

By integrating various fraud prevention and detection techniques, financial institutions can effectively reduce risk and protect themselves and their customers from potential financial losses. This approach equips professionals to stay ahead in the fight against fraud, employing a robust security framework that leaves no room for fraudsters to exploit vulnerabilities. Stay informed, adapt and use more than one strategy to fortify your defenses and mitigate the impact of fraud.

How AI and Real-Time Analytics Can Enhance Fraud Detection

One of the pivotal tools in the battle against fraud is artificial intelligence (AI), which is adept at automating the scrutiny of extensive data and identifying patterns and anomalies indicative of fraudulent activity. This innovative technology significantly contributes to risk assessment, helping financial institutions stay ahead of evolving fraud.

Furthermore, AI is instrumental in reducing fraud losses by expediting and refining fraud response and mitigation. When integrated with real-time analytics, it allows financial institutions to monitor transactions and customer behavior promptly, promptly flagging potential fraud incidents before they impact critical financial operations.

Here are some specific things that fraud law professionals can do to stay up-to-date on the latest trends:

- **Read industry publications and blogs:** There are a number of industry publications and blogs that focus on fraud and fraud prevention. Reading these publications can help fraud law professionals stay informed about the latest trends and developments in the field.
- **Attend industry conferences:** There are also a number of industry conferences that focus on fraud and fraud prevention. These conferences can be a great way for fraud law

professionals to learn about the latest trends and developments in the field and to network with other professionals in the field.

- **Take continuing education courses:** There are a number of continuing education courses that are available on fraud and fraud prevention. Taking these courses can help fraud law professionals stay up-to-date on the latest trends and developments in the field.

By taking these steps, fraud law professionals can stay one step ahead of the criminals and protect their clients from fraud.

Staying Ahead: Your Arsenal Against Fraud

In the relentless fight against fraud, staying informed about emerging trends is not just an option—it is a necessity. The landscape of financial crime trends is ever-shifting, demanding our vigilance and adaptability. Detecting and preventing fraud requires a proactive approach, integrating risk assessment, detection methods and robust security measures. This not only protects critical financial transactions but also enhances the customer experience, minimizing customer friction.

Remember, fraud becomes more sophisticated and impactful each day, necessitating our constant effort to fight fraud. Together, as professionals in the financial services realm, we can implement new and creative ways to mitigate fraud, ensuring a safer environment for all.



Sourced from: www.mooselakecartoons.com

Christmas Carols Cryptogram

Here is a list of 18 Christmas carols whose titles have all been written in the same secret code. Can you figure out what the titles are? (Hint: replace the letter P with a C.)

- 1.Q PQOR WYY VR JWFNSJBY
- 2.AFYRUN UFTSN, SQYV UFTSN
- 3.IRPZ NSR SWYYA DFNS MQBTSA QJ SQYYV
- 4.SWXZ! NSR WUTRYA AFUT
- 5.NSR JFXAN UQRY
- 6.DR DFAS VQB W ORXXV PSXFANOWA
- 7.FN PWOR BLQU NSR OFIUFTSN PYRWX
- 8.F'Ø IXRWOFUT QJ W DSNR PSXFANOWA
- 9.WDWV FU NSR OWUTRX
- 10.AWUNW PYWBA FA PQOFUT NQ NQDU
- 11.AFYERX MRYYA
- 12.YFNMYR IXBOORX MQV
- 13.TQI XNAN VR ORXXV TRUNYRORU
- 14.XBIQYLS NSR XRI UQARI XRFUIRRX
- 15.F AWD ØØØØV ZFAAFUT AWUNW PYWBA
- 16.KFUTYR MRYYA
- 17.SWER VQBXARYJ W ORXXV YFNMYR PSXFANOWA
- 18.Q PSXFANOWA NXRR



The Nutcracker Ballet

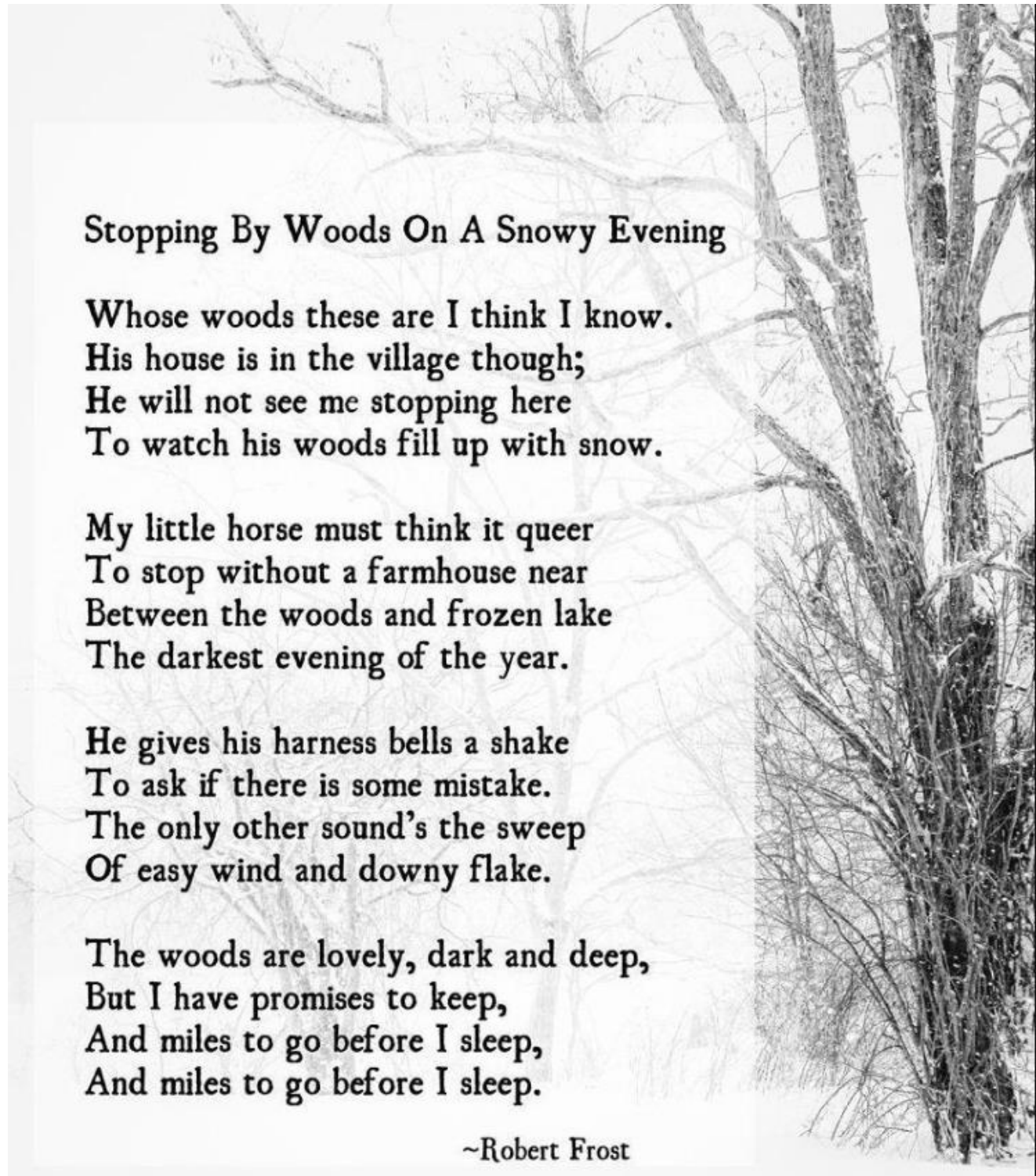
Word Search



ARABIAN
BALLERINA
BALLET
BATTLE
CHILDREN
CLARA
COMPOSER
CURTAIN
DANCE
DOLL

DREAM
FRITZ
GODFATHER
GUESTS
HOLIDAY
LIGHTS
MICE
MOUSE KING
MUSIC
NUTCRACKER

PARTY
PRESENTS
PRINCE
PUPPETS
RUSSIA
SOLDIER
SUGAR PLUM FAIRY
SWORD
TCHAIKOVSKY
TREE



Stopping By Woods On A Snowy Evening

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound's the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

~Robert Frost