

Identity Theft: Hospital Aide Convicted.

A nurses aide used her employment position to obtain confidential information from hospital patients' charts and co-workers' pay stubs.

She sold the information to an accomplice who fraudulently applied for credit cards and used the credit cards to purchase almost \$250,000 in merchandise.

The US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit upheld the aide's conviction and two-year prison sentence for violation of the US Federal identity-theft statute.

The court's opinion in the criminal case did not elaborate upon the hospital's potential civil liability. **US v. Occident, 2007 WL 1988454 (4th Cir., July 6, 2007).**