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## Sussex man charged in fraud

### Visiting nurse agency says it lost \$700,000

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*Posted: April 4, 2007*

A former vice president of the Aurora Visiting Nurse Association was charged Wednesday with bilking the state's oldest and largest home care provider out of more than \$700,000 via a shell company between 1997 and 2006.

Mark P. Hilgart, 45, of Sussex faces a possible 50 years in prison if convicted of all four felony counts of theft by fraud filed against him. According to the criminal complaint, once the scam was found out, Hilgart told an internal Aurora investigator that he had "made some serious mistakes" and wanted to admit them.

His scheme, as laid out in the criminal complaint, involved invoices that were routed to be charged to Hilgart's administrative account, instead of accounts that received oversight from other Aurora officials.

According to the complaint, starting in 1997, a firm called Contract Management Services - which had the same address as Hilgart's house - got regular checks from Aurora for supplies and cleaning services, though none of the invoices show where the cleaning took place.

Hilgart told an internal Aurora investigator that the fraudulent invoices went back only to January 2004, the complaint says, and began after he started a company to do cleaning for Aurora, then learned Aurora decided to handle its own cleaning.

"He just kept invoicing," the complaint says of Hilgart. "He stated that it was his goal to use the money to build his business and that he had intended to pay Aurora back tenfold."

Hilgart made his initial appearance in Milwaukee County Circuit Court on the charges Wednesday. He was released on a \$50,000 signature bond, and his preliminary hearing was scheduled for April 26.

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From the April 5, 2007 editions of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel  
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