

# HEALTH CARE FRAUD LAWS

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## NC False Claims Act

### NCGS Chapter 1 Article 51 (605-629)

The North Carolina False Claims Act became effective in January of 2010. The act allows individuals to bring **Qui tam** (whistleblower) actions against individuals or companies who **knowingly** submit false claims to the state. The act allows the whistleblower to recover a portion of the monetary recovery. The North Carolina False Claims Act prohibits employers from **retaliating** against employees who act as whistleblowers. Violating the NC False Claims Act may include **treble damages** and significant fines (\$5,500-\$11,000 per violation).

**“My office will hold accountable Medical device manufacturers who drain resources from our government healthcare programs, no matter how elaborate and layered the scheme may be”**

**-Attorney General  
Josh Stein**

<https://ncdoj.gov/attorney-general-josh-stein-announces-500000-medical-device-settlement/>

## What do those words mean?

**Qui tam:** Lawsuit filed by a whistleblower.

**Knowingly:** Having actual knowledge of the information, acting in deliberate ignorance or reckless disregard of the truth.

**Retaliation:** Firing, demoting, suspending, threatening or harassment of the employee.

**Treble damages:** Triple the amount of actual damages.