

## DOCUMENT REDACTED

## Exemption 3, FOIA

03/22/06

## 5 USC 552(b)(3)

Dear Sirs/Madam:

I have been sorely scammed regarding my idea for a new invention in the [REDACTED] for approximately \$13,000.00

The company to whom I speak of has changed their name multiple times, most likely to avoid lawsuits. I saw that in February of 2004, they agreed to pay \$1.2 million dollars in consumer redress to settle FTC charges it misrepresented invention promotion charges. There were Invention Submission Company. They are now InventHelp.

My story begins in May of 2004. I have been a nurse in the LTC industry for greater than 24 years. My invention stemmed from [REDACTED] that I have worked in since 1980. I took my idea to the Invention Submission Company out of Pittsburgh, PA. A man by the name of Drew Hill flew to my city in Columbus, Ohio. I met with him several times and I did a drawing of my idea, and a 4-page essay of the invention for why, what, and how. He sold me the package and stated that when things got rolling, at the end of the 2 year contract, I would be offered to market it myself, or continue to have them market it, and split the profits 80/20 with me getting the 80% and them getting the 20% for marketing. He suggested I take it to a patent attorney, I did this, not knowing that the patent attorney was "IN" with the Invention Company, and would simply take my money (\$1,000.00) and would offer me up a simple book of why he would not recommend a patent. The other ¾ of the book showed me how the invention would benefit not only [REDACTED] in America, but also in countries around the world. When I received these facts, I ask about what I could do differently to get a patent. I was told that if I could add features to my invention that would clearly define the difference in my invention and the ones already with patents that were similar. I did this and spoke with Mr. Hill again, and a man by the name of Dan. Dan is no longer available for me to talk to, as he now works in the patent departments, or so I am told this when I call. No one ever contacted me again. Dan kept telling me that I did not need a patent, that I had signed a disclosure statement and my invention name would not get out. However, I looked on "Google" just about 6 months ago, and I find the same name that I came up with, on an invention that was the not the same, but had the same concept behind it.

I was also told in May of 2004, that I would be invited to a Gallery in Pittsburgh, the next year in June. I was told that I would be sent 4 tickets and would be able to see my invention on display. I was so anxious to go and see my idea "for real". Finally, with not one word from them, I placed a call to inquire about the Gallery. The woman informed me that IF I decided to fly up there, I would be only allowed to go in and see my exhibit and would have to be escorted in and then escorted out. I would fly there and would only be permitted to see my invention for maybe... 5 minutes. They told me that that there would be marketing people presenting my invention to private manufacturing companies. No one would be permitted to go in with me! It is completely opposite from what they told me one year before.

I called several times about advertising, and finding a manufacturing company. I even called and gave them the name of a manufacturing company. They failed to follow up on this. Today, I all I get from them is a listing of companies no one has ever heard of and in the 18 months that I have paid them, they have sent me only 1 response of a company not being interested. I have called and done a formal request of cancellation of the contract and full return of my \$13,000.00. They absolutely refuse.

I took my life's savings and entrusted them to help me get a patent, and to get the invention made and out to the public. The invention benefits [REDACTED]

This company says there have done everything they said they were going to do. It's not funny, but interesting that I contacted another patent attorney and my invention is now on its way to be patented, a prototype being made, and the logo has been changed with getting a trademark for the name. I have also brought on board the manufacturing company that I originally had asked InventHelp to contact and follow through on.