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## **OVERCHARGED PATIENTS FILE CLASS ACTION AGAINST CARDINAL GLENNON HOSPITAL IN ST. LOUIS**

**St. Louis, MO, September 6, 2011** – Allison Zaromb’s four-year old son, Meir, had several warts that needed treatment, so she took him to a doctor’s office next to Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital in St. Louis. It was a simple outpatient procedure that took about three minutes, but because it was done in a doctor’s office associated with Cardinal Glennon hospital, the charges included a \$318 “hospital” facility fee, even though no hospital facilities were used.

Ms. Zaromb’s shock to discover that Cardinal Glennon charges “hospital” facility fees, in addition to the physician charges, for non-hospital, outpatient visits to doctor’s offices and clinics that are not inside the hospital is at the heart of a class action lawsuit she has just filed against Cardinal Glennon and its parent, SSM Health Care, on behalf of herself and all other persons who have been similarly overcharged for undisclosed “hospital” fees for non-hospital services.

Because of recent widespread reductions in employer-provided health insurance, more and more patients, such as Ms. Zaromb, must pay significant deductibles and co-pay amounts under their health insurance. They join a growing population of uninsured or partially insured patients who care very much about being charged fairly because they, and not an insurance company, are being stuck with all or a portion of the bills.

This class action seeks to recover the amounts that Cardinal Glennon has charged for these undisclosed “hospital” facility fees for non-hospital services at doctor’s offices and outpatient clinics affiliated with Cardinal Glennon throughout the St. Louis

area. The suit also seeks an injunction preventing Cardinal Glennon from continuing to engage in these billing practices.

“Patients should not be charged undisclosed ‘hospital’ charges for these sorts of non-hospital procedures done at doctor’s offices and clinics affiliated with Cardinal Glennon,” said Robert Friedman, an attorney with C. Marshall Friedman, P.C., in St. Louis, which represents Ms. Zaromb in the case. “Patients have no idea that by walking into one doctor’s office instead of another’s they will pay hundreds of dollars more for the same simple in-office procedure. We believe that this case is an important step towards requiring transparency in billing and fairer pricing for non-hospital procedures, not only at Cardinal Glennon, but for other hospitals throughout the area.”

The attorneys representing Ms. Zaromb and the proposed Class are Marshall Friedman and Robert Friedman of C. Marshall Friedman, P.C., in St. Louis, (314)-621-8400, and John W. Phillips and Matthew Geyman of Phillips Law Group, PLLC in Seattle, (206) 382-6163. To learn more, please visit [www.marshallfriedman.com](http://www.marshallfriedman.com) (Facebook: FriedmanLegal).

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