



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSIFYING TIME RECORDS AND STEALING CLOSE TO \$33,000 IN EXCESS PAY

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced the guilty plea of a New York State psychiatric center employee on charges she falsified her time sheets and stole about \$33,000 in excess pay that she never earned during a recent 15-month period.

Indra Mattiace, 61, of Floral Park, a Dietician 2 at the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center in Queens, pleaded guilty today to Petit Larceny and paid full restitution of \$33,000.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Mattiace, who was also a payroll supervisor for the staff in her department at the time, routinely submitted falsified computerized time records from July 2015 through October 2016 indicating she worked overtime or was due a “meal allowance” payment. Those computer pay records were submitted to the New York State Office of Mental Health (“OMH”), which processed them and paid her for the hours submitted. After each of the payments was made, Mattiace then went back into the computerized payroll system and deleted the overtime hours and meal allowance payments she originally submitted.

As a result of Mattiace’s submission of false time records, she was paid \$32,903 for 609.5 overtime hours and meal allowance payments that she never earned.

“This defendant used her position and special access to falsely report her hours worked and brazenly steal from State taxpayers,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue to use the resources of my office to vigorously pursue anyone who violates the public trust.”

“The defendant has now admitted her guilt in this scheme to enrich herself at the expense of the taxpayers of New York. This kind of thievery will not be tolerated in Queens County,” said **District Attorney Brown**. “My office will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to arrest and prosecute those who would cheat the system for their own personal gain.”

During the course of the investigation, Mattiace retired from her position with OMH.

Mattiace pleaded guilty in Queens County Criminal Court.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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