



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE CORRECTION OFFICER FORGED MEDICAL RECORDS IN FRAUDULENT ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY EXTENDED SICK LEAVE

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a State Corrections Officer on charges he used forged medical documents in a fraudulent attempt to justify extended sick leave from work.

Christopher R. Brokos, 29, of Essex County, was arrested and charged today with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, both felonies. The charges allege Brokos submitted a forged Employee Request for Family Medical Leave form to his employers at the Moriah Shock Incarceration Facility in September to justify his extended absence from work.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Brokos, an employee of the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS), called in sick on September 9, 2017 and returned to work on September 18. DOCCS requires that any sick leave of more than three consecutive days be substantiated with medical documentation. The investigation found that when Brokos returned to work he submitted a falsified Employee Request for Family Medical Leave form in a fraudulent attempt to justify his time off by indicating he took the leave to care for a relative. The physician named in the medical form provided a sworn statement that he did not treat Brokos's relative.

“This defendant's fraudulent attempt to have New York taxpayers pay for his unearned days off was a complete disregard of the public trust,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue to use all the resources at my disposal to pursue any government employee who defrauds the public.

Brokos was arraigned in Moriah Town Court and released pending a reappearance date of Jan. 9, 2018.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Essex County District Attorney Kristy Sprague and her office for prosecuting this matter.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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