



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott – Acting Welfare Inspector General

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FORMER STATE EMPLOYEE PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OF OVER \$57,000 IN HOUSING AND WELFARE BENEFITS THROUGH FRAUD

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the guilty plea of a former New York State Department of Health (“DOH”) employee who defrauded welfare and public housing agencies to obtain more than \$57,000 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Kimberly Jones, 35, of South Pearl Street, Albany, pleaded guilty today in Albany City Court to the crime of Petit Larceny following a partial restitution payment of \$25,000 with the balance of \$32,000 to be repaid as part of her sentencing which is scheduled for Oct. 18, 2018 in City Court.

“This defendant’s knowledge of the welfare system coupled with an arrogant belief she could abuse taxpayer resources without getting caught has resulted with her earning a criminal record,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “This former public employee stole critical benefits to which she was not entitled. I will continue to use all resources at my disposal to protect welfare benefits that are vital to those New Yorkers who are most in need of financial assistance.”

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Jones, from March 2013 through April 2016, repeatedly filed false documents with the Albany County Department of Social Services and Albany Housing Authority enabling her to receive more than \$57,000 in welfare benefits to which she was not entitled. The charges allege that Jones filed applications for food stamps, Medicaid and subsidized housing in which she falsified her child care expenses and household composition. The alleged falsified documents included a forged letter from a child care provider stating that Jones paid \$200 per week for child care, which she did not. The filings altogether enabled Jones to receive \$35,478 in food stamp and Medicaid benefits, and \$21,816 in housing benefits, to which she was not entitled.

Many of the alleged falsifications occurred while Jones was employed by DOH as a Medicaid Eligibility Examiner. Since late 2016, Jones had the title of Secretary 1, but resigned from her position after her arrest early this year.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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The New York State Office of the Welfare Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse or illegal acts committed against public assistance programs designed to help those in need. Our office also investigates complaints

about the agencies and local social services districts who administer social services programs. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form: <http://www.ig.ny.gov> or sending an email to: inspector.general@ig.ny.gov. You also can write to our office at: Office of the Welfare Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor Albany, New York 12223