



# NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott**

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## **NYS INSPECTOR GENERAL: OPWDD INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST CHARGED WITH NEARLY \$10,000 THEFT**

*State Credit Card Used to Purchase Pre-Paid Debit Cards*

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the arrest of a New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) information technology specialist who was charged with using a state credit card to make nearly \$10,000 in unauthorized purchases for personal items.

Jason Alderson, 35, of Niskayuna, N.Y., allegedly used a state travel card to purchase thousands of dollars in pre-paid debit cards and other items. He is charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a Class D felony, and Official Misconduct, a class A Misdemeanor.

“State employees who are given the authority to make purchases with credit cards on behalf of the State of New York must do so with a full understanding of their legal responsibilities. If they steal public resources they will be fully investigated and held accountable,” said Inspector General Scott. “Moreover, there must be heightened scrutiny by those charged with supervising their use. There are real consequences to violating the public’s trust, and my office stands ready to assist Schenectady County District Attorney Carney as his office prosecutes this case.”

The defendant admitted to the Inspector General that he made the unauthorized purchases and had not traveled for state related business in a few years. The Inspector General’s investigation revealed that \$9,731 in unauthorized charges were made in Schenectady County alone for personal items, such as pre-paid debit cards, groceries, gasoline and meals.

Schenectady County District Attorney Robert M. Carney thanked the Office of the Inspector General for this referral for prosecution, stating: “State employees should understand that their work activities are subjected to the additional scrutiny of a state agency dedicated to rooting out corruption and self-dealing. It is too bad that whatever the reasons that drove Mr. Alderson to steal monies not belonging to him, his conduct tarnishes the reputation of those in state service, almost all of whom are honest hard-working people.”

Alderson was arraigned before the Hon. Stephen F. Swinton, Jr. of Niskayuna Town Justice Court. He is scheduled to return to court on December 4, 2013.

He has been employed at the OPWDD O.D. Heck facility in Niskayuna with an annual salary of \$54,790. He was first employed by OPWDD in February 2008.

Inspector General Scott thanked the Town of Niskayuna Police Department for their assistance in the investigation, and Schenectady County District Attorney Robert Carney for prosecuting this case. The defendant is considered innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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