



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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NYS INSPECTOR GENERAL: STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST CONVICTED AND SENTENCED FOR \$12,000 THEFT USING STATE CREDIT CARDS

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced a New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) information technology (IT) specialist was convicted today on charges he purchased more than \$12,000 in personal items with state credit cards.

Jason Alderson, 36, of Niskayuna, who pleaded guilty in April to two counts of Third Degree Grand Larceny, a Class D Felony; and Official Misconduct, a class A Misdemeanor, was sentenced to five years of probation, and was ordered to pay 12,006.86 in restitution, some of which has already been paid by the defendant. He appeared before the Hon. Richard A. Giardino of Schenectady County Court.

Alderson resigned his position effective May 1, 2014.

“The defendant had the responsibility to make state purchases with state credit cards and nothing more,” said Inspector General Scott. “He was entrusted with using the cards honestly, ethically, and within the law. He violated that trust and is now being held accountable for his misconduct.”

District Attorney Robert Carney stated: “I credit the work of the Inspector General for uncovering these thefts and also thank Assistant District Attorney Jennifer M. Assini, Bureau Chief, Investigations and Intelligence, who led the prosecution team.” District Attorney Carney went on to state that “it is vital that no public employee enriches himself using public resources. We are glad that we are able to hold Mr. Alderson accountable for his actions and obtain his agreement to resign his job as part of this disposition.”

The Inspector General’s investigation revealed that \$12,006.86 in unauthorized charges were made for personal items, such as pre-paid debit cards, groceries, gasoline and meals. A part of Alderson’s duties was to provide IT services to various OPWDD facilities across the state, which necessitated his use of a travel card. OPWDD alerted Inspector General Scott of the matter as soon as the agency became aware of the unauthorized charges.

Alderson had 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 Schenectady County District Attorney Robert Carney for the prosecution of this case and the Town of Niskayuna Police Department for their assistance with the arrest of the defendant.

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