



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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CNY PSYCHIATRIC NURSE USED FORGED DOCTOR NOTE TO TAKE OFF FROM HIS GOVERNMENT JOB

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a central New York psychiatric nurse employed at State institution for using a forged doctor’s certificate to enable extended work absences without repercussions.

Russell Angell, 43, of Myers Avenue in the Oneida County Village of Yorkville, was charged today with two counts each of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, felonies.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Angell, a Psychiatric Nurse II for the New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH), twice used a forged doctor’s certificate to defraud OMH and enable his extended absence from his State job under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). The certifications allow employees to take repeated spontaneous and extended sick leave without having to provide any further explanations. He used a forged certificate in July 2015 and again in November 2015 for (FMLA) leave from his job at Central New York Psychiatric Center.

“This defendant used falsified physician certificates to defraud the State so he could make use of critical benefits reserved for legitimate family leave or dire medical issues,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue using the powers of my office to pursue anyone who defrauds the State and takes benefits to which they are not entitled.”

Angell was arraigned in Town of Marcy Court and released to reappear December 8 in Town Court.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Oneida County District Attorney Scott D. McNamara and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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