



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE CORRECTION OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO FORGING MEDICAL RECORDS IN FRAUDULENT ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY EXTENDED SICK LEAVE

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea 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, 30, of Essex County, pleaded guilty in Moriah Town Court to the charge of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree. The plea is in full satisfaction of the charges filed against Brokos accusing him of submitting a forged Employee Request for Family Medical Leave form to his employers at the Moriah Shock Incarceration Facility in September 2017 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 Sept. 9, 2017 and returned to work on Sept. 18, 2017. 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 investigation found that the physician named in the medical form provided a sworn statement that he did not treat Brokos's relative.

“This defendant's fraud was a brazen abuse of New York taxpayers who ended up paying for his unearned days off,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue to use all the resources at my disposal to pursue any public employee who violates the public trust.

Brokos pleaded guilty Tuesday evening in Moriah Town Court and was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge and \$705 in fines and surcharges.

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.

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