



# NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 20, 2016  
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## DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES CLERK STOLE STATE FUNDS THROUGH FORGED CHECK SCHEME

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a Department of Motor Vehicles (“DMV”) employee on charges she stole more than \$1,100 from driver license and vehicle registration transactions, and subsequently forged checks in an attempt to cover up the thefts.

Monique Covington, 40, of Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, was charged with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, felonies. She was arrested this morning at the Coney Island DMV branch where she worked.

“This public employee believed her scheme of trying to cover up her theft of cash from the State by using bogus checks would work, but she was wrong,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will pursue and bring to justice anyone who violates the public trust and steals from taxpayers.”

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that on at least two occasions Covington – who assisted customers and accepted payments for transactions at the DMV – forged checks belonging to an acquaintance of hers to cover up thefts from her cash drawer. The checks, made out for \$600 and \$505.38, were made to appear to have been written to cover transactions of customers she served at the DMV branch who actually paid either by cash or with a credit card. On both occasions, the checks made it appear the money collected in the cash drawer during her shift matched the value of transactions processed. Covington’s acquaintance never gave her permission to use his checks and neither of the checks cleared due to insufficient funds in the account.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked Kings County District Attorney Ken Thompson and his office for prosecuting this matter.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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