



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE HIGHWAY WORKER CHARGED AND PLEADS GUILTY TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD

Plea Agreement Includes Resignation from State Service and Restitution of Nearly \$10,000

ROCHESTER -- New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman today announced the arrest and guilty plea of a State Department of Transportation highway maintenance worker for defrauding the State out of nearly \$10,000 worth of Workers' Compensation benefits by working as a home improvement contractor while claiming he was unable to work.

Corey Julien Cagnolin, 35, of Gillette St., Rochester, was charged and pleaded guilty today in Rochester City Court to the Workers' Compensation crime of Attempted Fraudulent Practices, a misdemeanor. As part of the plea agreement, he is to pay \$9,940.49 in restitution and serve three years of probation. Also, Cagnolin will resign from State service and forfeit any future Workers' Compensation benefits related to his claim. He is scheduled for sentencing Jan. 7, 2016.

"This State employee deceived and took advantage of a system meant to assist those unable to work because of an illness or injury, which is inexcusable" said Inspector General Leahy Scott. "I will vigorously pursue anybody who defrauds the Workers' Compensation benefits system at the expense of honest, hard-working New Yorkers."

"Those who defraud our State's Workers' Compensation program take money out of the pockets of honest, hardworking New Yorkers who rely on those funds to help them get by after they've been injured on the job," Attorney General Schneiderman said. "Inspector General Leahy Scott and I will keep working together to root out Workers' Compensation fraud and hold dishonest recipients accountable."

Cagnolin admitted today to falsifying documents that he submitted to the New York State Insurance Fund ("NYSIF") by stating on those documents that he was not working in any capacity while accepting Worker's Compensation benefits, when he was, in fact, working. Between September 2013 and May 2014, Cagnolin received Worker's Compensation Benefits for an injury he claimed he suffered while at work in August 2013. Cagnolin received those benefits in part because he claimed he could not work due to his injury.

The charge filed against Cagnolin details that during this time period Cagnolin was running his own home improvement and contracting business, which included repairing roofs, cleaning and repairing chimneys, cleaning and repairing gutters, among other projects. Despite running and working at his own home improvement and contracting business, Cagnolin claimed on at least five forms that he submitted to NYSIF, as

required for his Worker's Compensation case, that he was not working in any capacity. Because of these false representations, Cagnolin received \$9,940.40 in Worker's Compensation benefits to which he was not entitled.

Inspector General Leahy Scott, who is also the State Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General, thanked NYSIF for their assistance with the investigation, the Rochester Police Department for processing the arrest and Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and his office for the prosecution of this matter.
