



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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Contact Bill Reynolds: 518-474-1010

ORAL SURGEON CHARGED WITH FRAUDULENT BILLING FOR DENTAL WORK ON STATE INMATES

Arrested and Charged With Submitting Fraudulent Bills to the State

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the arrest and indictment of an oral surgeon who allegedly billed the state for more than \$14,000 for dental work he never performed on state correctional facility inmates. The oral surgeon was contracted by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to perform the work for more than two dozen correctional facilities.

Timothy J. O'Keefe, 45, of East Amherst, was indicted on one felony count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and 40 counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree. O'Keefe is alleged to have filed billing vouchers from 2009 to 2011, falsely claiming to have undertaken difficult and more costly oral surgery procedures than he actually performed.

"The defendant engaged in a course of conduct over a lengthy period of time exploiting the medical process for his own benefit," said Inspector General Scott. "Defrauding the state of money for services not performed, as alleged here, not only violates professional ethical obligations, but constitutes a crime for which they will be held accountable."

O'Keefe had been contracted by DOCCS to provide oral surgery services to 26 state correctional facilities in western and central New York, and the North Country. His contract was terminated earlier this year during the Inspector General's investigation.

O'Keefe was arrested and arraigned today before the Hon. Peter Lynch of Albany County Court. Bail was set at \$10,000. O'Keefe is scheduled to return to court June 11.

Inspector General Scott thanked DOCCS for its assistance in the investigation, New York State Police for the arrest, and the New York State Attorney General for the prosecution of this matter.

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

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