



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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ORAL SURGEON SENTENCED FOR FRAUDULENTLY BILLING STATE FOR WORK ON INMATES HE NEVER PERFORMED

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced a western New York oral surgeon has been sentenced on charges he fraudulently billed the State of New York more than \$14,000 for dental work 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 20 correctional facilities.

“This individual tried to exploit the system, developing a scheme to inflate his income by making false claims about the work he performed,” said Inspector General Scott. “As a result of this investigation he is returning taxpayer dollars to the state and will be serving time in prison as a consequence of his actions.”

“Contractors who overbill the state for services they do not perform are stealing from taxpayers and wasting precious resources that could be used for legitimate purposes,” said Attorney General Schneiderman. “My office is committed to protecting taxpayers from waste and abuse and today’s sentencing makes it clear that those who steal from the state will face consequences, including jail time.”

Timothy J. O’Keefe, 45, was sentenced on charges of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. O’Keefe will serve six months incarceration and pay full restitution in the amount of \$14,640. O’Keefe pled guilty to the charges in January. The defendant’s conduct has been reported to the New York State Department of Education, which licenses oral surgeons.

Inspector General Scott’s investigation found that O’Keefe filed billing vouchers from 2009 to 2011, falsely claiming to have completed difficult and more costly oral surgery procedures than he actually performed. 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 in early 2014 amid the Inspector General’s investigation.

The Inspector General’s investigation found O’Keefe performed work on inmates housed at more than 20 correctional facilities across many regions of upstate New York.

O’Keefe was sentenced by the Hon. Peter Lynch of Albany County Court. 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.

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