



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 15, 2018

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ONEIDA COUNTY TRUCK DRIVER PLEADS GUILTY TO PERJURY FOR DEFRAUDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND NEW YORK STATE

SYRACUSE - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea of an Oneida County trucker, who recently took a job with New York State, on charges he falsified hearing testimony, falsified documents submitted as part of his job application with the State and defrauded the Workers' Compensation system while receiving nearly \$8,000 in insurance benefits to which he was not entitled.

Roger M. Decker Jr., 48, of Lee Center, pleaded guilty today with to the crime of Perjury in the Third Degree.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Decker was injured while working for an Oneida County trucking company in 2004 and shortly thereafter stopped working and started collecting Workers' Compensation benefits. The charges allege that Decker repeatedly submitted falsified forms to the New York State Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) and his physician in 2016 and 2017, and that he testified at a WCB hearing that he had not worked for more than a decade when he was in fact working for at least two trucking companies. In total, Decker received \$7,875.08 in Workers' Compensation benefits in 2016 to which he was not entitled.

Additionally, the investigation found that Decker submitted documents in late 2017 as part of his job application for highway maintenance worker position he obtained with the New York State Department of Transportation that falsely indicated that he had never been injured while on the job. Decker was terminated from that position upon his arrest in June while still under a period of probationary employment.

"This defendant's false testimony and filings were part of a series of fraudulent actions meant solely to enrich himself with financial benefits to which he was not entitled," said Inspector General Leahy Scott. "I will continue to use all of the resources at my disposal to protect the integrity of the state's vital Workers' Compensation system."

Under State law, Workers' Compensation wage replacement benefits are for those who have sustained a work-related injury limiting their ability to work.

Decker pleaded guilty today in Utica City Court and remained released on his own recognizance pending his return for sentencing on October 18, 2018.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Oneida County District Attorney Scott D. McNamara and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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The New York State Office of the Workers' Compensation Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse or illegal acts committed against public assistance programs designed to help those in need. Our office also investigates complaints about the agencies and local social services districts who administer social services programs. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form: <http://www.ig.ny.gov> or sending an email to: inspector.general@ig.ny.gov. You also can write to our office at: Office of the Welfare Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor Albany, New York 12223