



NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 18, 2018
Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

ONEIDA COUNTY TRUCK DRIVER SENTENCED FOR PERJURY AND FOR DEFRAUDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND NEW YORK STATE

SYRACUSE - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the sentencing of an Oneida County trucker, who was recently employed by New York State, on charges he falsely testified under oath 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, was sentenced today in Utica City Court to three years of probation and full restitution of \$7,875 for his August plea to the crime of Perjury in the Third Degree. The plea was in full satisfaction of all charges filed against him.

“This defendant’s repeated fraud and deceit were part of a shameless scheme meant solely to enrich himself with financial benefits he did not deserve,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue to work with my law enforcement partners and use all of the resources at my disposal to protect the integrity of the state’s vital Workers’ Compensation system.”

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. Decker repeatedly submitted falsified forms to the New York State Workers’ Compensation Board (WCB) and his physician in 2016 and 2017 and 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 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 a 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.

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

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