



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

STAFF OF STATE DETENTION CENTER'S PRIVATE MEDICAL PROVIDER INDICTED FOR THEFT FROM STATE

BROOKLYN – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced today the indictments and arrest of two staff members of a State juvenile detention center's private medical services provider for stealing and assisting in the theft of more than \$50,000 each.

Roy Hammonds, 64, of Burd Street, Nyack, and Patricia Armstrong, 67, of Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, were indicted by a Brooklyn Grand Jury and subsequently arrested and arraigned today for Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a felony. Armstrong was additionally indicted on eight counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, also a felony.

Hammonds, a physician's assistant, and Armstrong, a nursing supervisor, were both accused of stealing more than \$50,000 each while employed at Brooklyn's Ella McQueen (juvenile detention) Reception Center. Both were employees of Correctional Medical Care ("CMC"), a company that provides medical staff to New York State correctional facilities, including the Ella McQueen Reception Center in Brooklyn. The Ella McQueen Center is a juvenile detention center reception facility run by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS").

"Instead of treating vulnerable youth, these defendants were treating themselves to a no-show job," said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. "These two long-term colleagues took advantage of their supervisory roles in a State facility and violated the public trust. I will continue using all the resources of my office and working with my law enforcement partners to pursue anyone who defrauds taxpayers and steals public funds."

"As we allege, the defendants not only defrauded the state, they stole medical resources that are meant to serve vulnerable youth facing urgent medical needs" said **Attorney General Schneiderman**. "We'll continue to work with our partners to uncover and eliminate these types of fraudulent schemes."

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Armstrong completed her own and Hammond's time records and submitted them to CMC's headquarters for payment. The indictment against Armstrong alleges that she submitted employee timesheets containing false information to CMC. Under contract with the State, CMC directly pays its employees and is reimbursed by the State subsequent to the submission of invoices.

Hammonds and Armstrong were arraigned before Supreme Court Justice Danny Chun in New York State Supreme Court in Brooklyn. Both defendants were released on their own recognizance and Hammonds is due to reappear in court on October 18, and Armstrong on October 25.

The charges against the defendants are merely accusations and they are presumed innocent until and unless

proven guilty in a court of law. If convicted, the defendants face up to fifteen years in prison.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Office of the New York State Attorney General for their invaluable assistance in this case.

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