



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## **GENESEE COUNTY MAN SENTENCED TO JAIL TIME FOR OVER \$4,000 WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD**

BUFFALO – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the sentencing of a Town of LeRoy man on charges he defrauded the Workers' Compensation system and stole more than \$4,000 in insurance benefits to which he was not entitled by claiming he was not working when in fact he was.

Sergio Forte, 52, of Wolcott Street, LeRoy, was sentenced today in the Town of LeRoy Justice Court to three months of weekends in jail and full restitution for his previous plea to Insurance Fraud in the Fifth Degree and Petit Larceny.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Forte received Workers' Compensation benefits during the spring of 2015 when he purportedly injured his knee while carrying construction materials while on a job laying tile for a flooring company. During that period, he stopped working his flooring job and began collecting workers' compensation benefits at a rate of \$853.34 per week. While collecting the benefits, Forte falsely reported to the Workers' Compensation Board that he was not working in any capacity when he was in fact employed as a farmhand. As a result of this intentional misrepresentation, Forte obtained \$4,013.36 in Workers' Compensation insurance benefits to which he was not entitled and paid full restitution as part of his sentencing.

"This defendant's deception was a bold-faced fraud meant to financially enrich himself with benefits to which he was not entitled," said Inspector General Leahy Scott. "I will continue using all of the resources of my office to help ensure the Workers' Compensation system remains protected for the honest and hard-working New Yorkers who deserve them."

Under State law, employers are required to maintain Workers' Compensation coverage for their employees, and employees are expected to provide truthful information regarding their work activity to insurance carriers and the Workers' Compensation Board during the time they are receiving benefits.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Erie Insurance Property & Casualty, Co. for their assistance with the investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest and Genesee County District Attorney Lawrence Friedman and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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*The New York State Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse and/or illegal acts against the New York State Workers' Compensation system, including fraud by medical service providers, employers seeking to evade appropriate Workers' Compensation charges, and employees*

*who fabricate injuries to fraudulently receive system benefits. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form at <http://www.ig.ny.gov> or sending an email to: [inspector.general@ig.ny.gov](mailto:inspector.general@ig.ny.gov). You also can write to our office at: Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor, Albany, New York 12223*