



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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

FORMER STATE SOCIAL WORKER REPAYS NEARLY \$25,000 IN PAY SHE STOLE AND PLEADS TO DISORDERLY CONDUCT

ALBANY- New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced that a former state social worker repaid nearly \$25,000 she stole and pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct.

Jennifer Haggerty, 37 of Arkport, New York, pleaded guilty in the Town of Portland Justice Court to Disorderly Conduct. As a condition of the plea, Haggerty was required to pay full restitution.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Haggerty, who was a full time OMH Licensed Master Social Worker 2 at the time, had “extra service contracts” with OMH to provide social services at Lakeview Shock Incarceration Correctional Facility. Pursuant to these contracts, Haggerty conducted mental status exams of inmates incarcerated at Lakeview outside of her assigned work hours. From early 2012 through July 2015 Haggerty falsely reported to OMH that she worked on 20 days when she did not work at all. In addition, Haggerty claimed working more hours than she actually worked on an additional 61 days. As a result of Haggerty’s submission of false time records, she was paid nearly \$25,000 to which she was not entitled.

“This defendant falsely reported her time at work and stole from State taxpayers,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue to use the resources of my office to vigorously pursue anyone who so callously violates the public trust.”

During the course of the investigation, Haggerty resigned from her position with the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked Chautauqua County District Attorney Patrick Swanson and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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