



NEWS RELEASE

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

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Contact [John Milgrim](mailto:John.Milgrim@ig.ny.gov): 518-474-1010

CENTRAL NEW YORK PSYCHIATRIC CENTER AIDE CHARGED WITH INSURANCE FRAUD

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of an employee at the Central New York Psychiatric Center on insurance fraud charges by trying to collect supplemental benefit payments for days he claimed to be out on a Workers' Compensation injury claim when in fact he was at work.

Duane C. Hayes, 40, of Oneida Street, Utica, was charged with Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, felonies, and Attempted Petit Larceny, a misdemeanor.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Hayes, a Security Hospital Treatment Assistant for the State, submitted a false claim to his personal supplemental insurance carrier alleging he was out of work on a Workers' Compensation injury from Feb. 10, 2016 through June 15, 2016. That claim was meant to ensure receipt of supplemental benefit payments while out of work. The investigation, however, found that Hayes was at work on full duty status during at least four of the dates he claimed to be out.

“This defendant is charged with abusing benefit systems in place that were meant to help him through a difficult time, not enrich his bottom line,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will use all the resources at my disposal to put a stop to any fraud against the critical systems in place that are meant to help hard-working New Yorkers.”

Hayes was arraigned in the City of Utica Court and released pending further court action.

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

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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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. 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