



NEWS RELEASE

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

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CENTRAL NEW YORK PSYCHIATRIC CENTER AIDE PLEADS GUILTY IN INSURANCE FRAUD CASE

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea 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, pleaded guilty in Utica City Court today to Attempted Petit Larceny. Concurrent to his plea, Hayes was assessed a \$500 fine.

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 saying that 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 abused benefit systems that were meant to assist employees, not enrich them,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue using the resources at my disposal to put a stop to any abuses of the benefits systems that are meant to help hard-working New Yorkers.”

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.

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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