



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 28, 2017
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STATE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER TREATMENT AIDE FAKED MEDICAL RECORDS TO GET EXTENDED MEDICAL LEAVE

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a secure psychiatric center medical aide accused of possessing and submitting a forged doctor’s certificate meant to enable him to receive extended medical leave from his position with the New York State Office of Mental Health (“OMH”) without losing his job.

Jeovonnie Jackson, 44, of Deborah Drive, Utica, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, both felonies.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that in October 2016, Jackson, a Secure Care Treatment Aide-1 submitted a forged medical form - known as a Certification of Health Care Provider for Employee’s Serious Health Condition - to the human resources office at the Central New York Psychiatric Center where he works. The doctor’s signature on the certificate, which helps establish an employee’s eligibility for Family and Medical Leave Act protections under State law, was forged.

“This defendant manipulated and abused vital protections meant for employees who are truly in need of extended leave to care for themselves or a loved one,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “His actions violated the public trust and I will use the resources of my office to help ensure the integrity of critical and compassionate employment protections in our laws.”

Jackson was arraigned on the charges and released pending his reappearance on Wednesday, March 29, in Marcy Town Court.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their 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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