



NEWS RELEASE

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

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STATE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER EMPLOYEE FALSIFIED REPORT TO FRAUDULENTLY OBTAIN WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS AFTER LUNGING AT PATIENT

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a Central New York Psychiatric Center employee who falsified an incident report to fraudulently obtain Workers' Compensation benefits by asserting that she was violently attacked by a patient when in fact she was the aggressor, lunged at the patient and knocked the patient to the ground during an argument.

Wendy Jarvis, 51, of Kohler Road, Cold Brook, was charged today with Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the First Degree, Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and the Workers' Compensation crime of Fraudulent Practices, all felonies.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that in late March, Jarvis, a Security Hospital Treatment Assistant, lunged at the patient in her care. Jarvis, who was the aggressor during the physical altercation, knocked the patient to the ground. Jarvis subsequently filed an incident report with the psychiatric center falsely asserting in writing that the patient assaulted her and "fought violently with staff" in order to help substantiate her claim for Workers' Compensation benefits. The charges are based on witness interviews as well as a review of video recordings from the psychiatric center.

"This attack on a patient who relies on facility employees for their everyday needs, and who remains under the care of the State, was disgraceful and unforgiveable, as was her attempt to falsify records in order to enrich herself," said Inspector General Leahy Scott. "I will continue diligently working to pursue anyone who violates the trust of their public position."

Jarvis was arraigned in Marcy Town Court and released with a reappearance date of June 8 for further court action.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, the Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs and the Central New York Psychiatric Center for their assistance with the investigation, 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