



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott – Acting Welfare Inspector General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 30, 2018
Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

STATE EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH THEFT OF OVER \$57,000 IN HOUSING AND WELFARE BENEFITS THROUGH FRAUD

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the arrest of a New York State Department of Health (“DOH”) employee on charges she defrauded welfare and public housing agencies to obtain more than \$57,000 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

Kimberly Jones, 35, of South Pearl Street, Albany, was charged today with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and nine counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, all felonies.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Jones, from March 2013 through April 2016, repeatedly filed false documents with the Albany County Department of Social Services and Albany Housing Authority enabling her to receive more than \$57,000 in welfare benefits to which she was not entitled. The charges allege that Jones filed applications for food stamps, Medicaid and subsidized housing in which she falsified her child care expenses and household composition. The alleged falsified documents included a forged letter from a child care provider stating that Jones paid \$200 per week for child care, which she did not. The filings altogether enabled Jones to receive \$35,478 in food stamp and Medicaid benefits, and \$21,816 in housing benefits, to which she was not entitled.

Many of the alleged falsifications occurred while Jones was employed by DOH as a Medicaid Eligibility Examiner. Since late 2016, Jones has had the title of Secretary 1 at DOH.

“This defendant’s background should have made her fully aware of appropriate uses for welfare benefits, instead, she is now facing felony charges. This defendant chose fraud and theft to obtain critical benefits to which she was not entitled,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue to use all resources at my disposal to pursue corrupt government employees and to protect welfare benefits that are vital to those New Yorkers who are most in need of financial assistance.”

Jones was arraigned today in Albany City Court and released pending her reappearance on the charges Feb. 2, 2018 in Albany County Court.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares 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 Welfare Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse or illegal acts committed against public assistance programs designed to help those in need. Our office also investigates complaints about the agencies and local social services districts who administer social services programs. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form: <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 Welfare Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor Albany, New York 12223