



NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 19, 2018

Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

FORMER STATE EMPLOYEE SENTENCED AND ORDERED TO PAY FULL RESTITUTION FOR THEFT OF \$57,000 IN WELFARE AND HOUSING BENEFITS FRAUD SCHEME

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

Kimberly Jones, 35, of South Pearl Street, Albany, was sentenced today in Albany City Court to three years of probation for the crime of Petit Larceny. Jones was also ordered to pay full restitution, including the \$25,000 she has already paid with an additional \$19,840 due to the Albany County Department of Social Services and \$12,160 for the Albany County Housing Authority.

“This defendant’s hubris and working knowledge of the welfare system enabled her repeated frauds and thefts for which she now must pay full restitution,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “She used her position to facilitate a violation of the public trust and I will remain steadfast in my commitment working with my law enforcement partners to pursue anyone who defrauds the public benefits system.”

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 \$57,000 in welfare benefits to which she was not entitled. Jones filed applications for food stamps, Medicaid and subsidized housing in which she falsified her child care expenses and household composition. The 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 more than \$35,000 in food stamp and Medicaid benefits, and more than \$21,000 in housing benefits which she should not have received.

Many of the falsifications occurred while Jones was employed by DOH as a Medicaid Eligibility Examiner. Since late 2016, Jones held the title of Secretary 1, but resigned from her position after her arrest earlier this year.

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 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