



NEWS RELEASE

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

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CENTRAL NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOL BUS MONITOR PLEADS GUILTY AND PAYS RESTITUTION FOR DEFRAUDING WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM WHILE WORKING AS A CHILD CARE PROVIDER

SYRACUSE – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced that an Oneida City School District employee pleaded guilty today to defrauding the Workers' Compensation system of more than \$6,100 by accepting benefits for a work-related injury while falsely denying that she was working even though she was employed as a child care provider and clerk at a truck rental business.

Shana M. Klouda (also known as Shana Perry), 27, of Norstar Boulevard, Liverpool, pleaded guilty today to the Workers' Compensation crime of Fraudulent Practices, a felony. At her plea appearance, Klouda also paid \$6,150 in restitution for her crime.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Klouda, who was injured in 2015 while working as a bus Monitor for Oneida City Schools, defrauded the Workers' Compensation system and stole the \$6,150 in benefits by telling medical providers and testifying falsely to the Workers' Compensation Board that she was not working in any capacity after she began receiving benefits from the injury. She was, however, employed as a day care provider in a child care center outside Syracuse, and as a clerk with U-Haul.

“This defendant shamelessly abused a benefit system that honest New York employees rely on to make ends meet, all so she could fraudulently supplement her own income.” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue to use all of the resources at my disposal to investigate and put a stop to anyone defrauding the Workers' Compensation system.”

The investigation found that shortly after she reported her injury at Oneida City Schools in July 2015, Klouda began receiving Workers' Compensation benefits based on her not having other employment. During Workers' Compensation medical examinations that November and the following March, she fraudulently told the examiners she was not working in any capacity when, in fact, she had a job at either the day care or U-Haul during each of those appointments. Separately, in April 2016, Klouda falsely testified before the New York State Workers' Compensation Board that she had not worked in any capacity since her injury the previous July. She subsequently filed paperwork with the Oneida City School District's insurance company indicating she had not been employed.

The investigation found that between November 2015 and August of 2016, Klouda received \$6,150 in Workers' Compensation benefits to which she was not entitled. Under State law, employers are required to maintain Workers' Compensation coverage for their employees, and employees are expected to provide truthful information regarding their work activity to insurance carriers and the Workers' Compensation Board during the time they are receiving benefits.

Klouda pleaded guilty in Onondaga County Court and was released pending her sentencing on Feb. 1, 2018.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest and Onondaga District Attorney William J. Fitzpatrick 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 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