



NEWS RELEASE

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

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WEALTHY QUEENS WOMAN ARRESTED ON WELFARE FRAUD CHARGES FOR CONCEALING INDICTED HUSBAND'S SIX-FIGURE INCOME

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a wealthy Queens woman on charges she stole more than \$67,000 in welfare benefits to which she was not entitled by concealing annual household income nearing a quarter of a million dollars earned mainly by her husband who is under indictment for a real estate fraud scheme.

Galit Levi, 31, of 82nd Avenue, Queens, was arrested and charged today with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, Welfare Fraud in the Second Degree, one count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree and six counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, all felonies.

Levi, while facing the new welfare charges, is living with and married to a co-owner of Kings Development Group LLC, a real estate development and holdings company indicted last year on charges of defrauding and stealing homes from multiple homeowners across New York City, particularly the sick and the elderly who were in financial distress. Levi's husband, Assaf Moshe (also known as Joe Levi), was one of 11 individuals and two companies indicted by Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown in that alleged scheme. Levi was not criminally implicated as part of that real estate theft scheme.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that between 2012 and 2015, while collecting a household annual income between \$200,000 to nearly \$225,000, Levi repeatedly filed documents that falsified and concealed her household income while applying for and recertifying her need for taxpayer-funded health care benefits meant to assist only those in the most need of financial assistance. In total, Levi is charged with stealing more than \$67,000 from the Medicaid system during those years.

“This defendant's alleged crimes involved a breathtakingly misplaced sense of entitlement by reaping a very comfortable family income while utilizing benefits meant for those in need to cover her expenses as if she were in dire financial distress,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue to use all of the resources at my disposal to protect public funds meant for those in the most need of financial assistance.”

The investigation into Levi's alleged theft also found that her repeated applications for Medicaid payments not only concealed her actual household income, but included information that she, her husband and four children, lived in a one-bedroom basement apartment with total household expenses amounting to \$650 per month. During the time period involved, Levi allegedly also concealed the fact that she owned a rental income property in Flushing, Queens.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York City Human Resources Administration for their assistance with the investigation, and Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown and his office for their assistance with the investigation and for prosecuting this matter.

All defendants are 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