



# 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 ADMITS TO WELFARE FRAUD AND PAYS MORE THAN \$67,000 RESTITUTION FOR CONCEALING INDICTED HUSBAND’S SIX-FIGURE INCOME

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced the guilty plea 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 82<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Queens, pleaded guilty today to Welfare Fraud in the Fifth Degree. Concurrent with her plea, Levi paid \$67,000 restitution to the New York City Human Resources Administration and was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine.

While claiming poverty to receive welfare benefits, Levi was married to and living with 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, Levi repeatedly filed documents that falsified and concealed her household income of between \$200,000 to nearly \$225,000 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 stole more than \$67,000 from the Medicaid system during those years.

“This defendant’s audacious abuse of the welfare system to unlawfully enhance her lifestyle has earned her a criminal conviction,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue to use all of the resources at my disposal and work tirelessly with my law enforcement partners to protect public funds meant for those in the most need of financial assistance.”

“In pleading guilty, the defendant has admitted to stealing funds from the Medicaid system - a program intended to help those who are truly in need,” said **Queens District Attorney Brown**. “The defendant has agreed to this conditional plea and has repaid the funds in full. I want to thank Inspector General Leahy Scott and her office’s investigators for their hard work on this case. We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to stop those who would cheat the system for their own benefit.”

The investigation into Levi’s thefts 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 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.

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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](mailto: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*