



NEWS RELEASE

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

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ROCHESTER WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FORGING DECEASED MOTHER'S SIGNATURE TO STEAL WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS

BUFFALO – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea of a City of Rochester woman who stole \$2,400 in Workers' Compensation benefits by forging her deceased mother's signature on benefit checks and keeping the money for herself.

Devon Lloyd-Fountain, 45, of Jefferson Avenue, Rochester, pleaded guilty today in Rochester City Court to the charge of Petit Larceny with the expectation she will pay full restitution as ordered at her upcoming sentencing.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Lloyd-Fountain cashed eight Workers' Compensation benefit checks mailed to her mother, after her mother passed away on December 26, 2015. Lloyd-Fountain forged her mother's signature, deposited the checks into relatives' bank accounts and then withdrew the money from each deposit for her own use. Worker's Compensation benefits are supposed to cease upon the death of a recipient.

In total, Lloyd-Fountain defrauded the Workers' Compensation system by stealing \$2,400 in benefits to which she was not entitled.

“In a morbid fraud, this defendant used her mother's passing to enrich herself with benefits to which she was not entitled,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will continue to use my office to protect benefits meant to assist only honest, hard-working New Yorkers.”

Following her plea, Lloyd-Fountain remained released on her own recognizance pending her sentencing on August 9, 2018.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Special Funds Conservation Committee for their assistance with the investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley and her office for prosecuting this matter.

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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:
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