



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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NYS INSPECTOR GENERAL: STATE EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH FILING FORGED DOCTORS' SIGNATURES IN EFFORT TO SECURE SICK LEAVE FROM JOB

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the arrest of a New York State Department of Taxation and Finance (DTF) employee, who was charged with possessing and filing letters containing forged doctors' signatures in an attempt to take sick leave from her job.

Livia Lorica, 47, of Albany, N.Y., allegedly submitted two excuse letters, purportedly signed by physicians, which claimed her need to be absent from work. The Inspector General's investigation revealed that neither physician drafted the letters on behalf of the defendant.

Lorica is charged with two felony counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing, and two misdemeanor counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument.

"The defendant is accused of submitting documents allegedly in an attempt to convince her employer that physicians recommended as a medical necessity that she be excused from work," said Inspector General Scott. "The taxpayers of New York have every right to expect employees in public service to hold themselves to the highest standards, and to take time off from work that is rightfully earned and charged."

Lorica was arraigned before the Honorable Rachel Kretser of Albany City Court.

Lorica was first employed by DTF in December 2007. Her annual salary is \$40,054 and her title is Secretary 1. Her work site has been the W. Averell Harriman State Office Building Campus in Albany, N.Y.

Inspector General Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance in the investigation, and the Albany County District Attorney's office for prosecuting this case.

The defendant is considered innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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