



NEWS RELEASE

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

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NEW YORK STATE CORRECTIONAL OFFICER CHARGED WITH SUBMITTING A FALSIFIED MEDICAL NOTE TO JUSTIFY EXCESSIVE TIME OFF

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a New York State Correctional Officer on charges she knowingly submitted a falsified doctor's note enabling her to take excessive days off to which she was not entitled.

Mary Cayea, 33, of Queensbury, a correction officer at the Washington Correctional Facility in Comstock, was arrested and charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a felony, and Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Cayea's employment status required her to provide her employer with medical documentation to substantiate any sick days taken. Cayea did receive a physician's note excusing absences from work on two days in 2017 but altered the document to make it appear the note also excused her absences on other days as well.

"This defendant shamelessly falsified a medical note hoping to justify her excessive and unearned time off," said Inspector General Leahy Scott. "I will continue using all of the resources at my disposal to pursue any public employee who falsifies documents in a fraud against the government."

Mary Cayea appeared before Judge Keenan at Central arraignment for Washington County yesterday evening, June 14, 2018 and released on her own recognizance pending further court action.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for the assistance with the arrest, and Washington County District Attorney J. Anthony Jordan 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:

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