



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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STATE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER EMPLOYEE FALSIFIED TIME RECORDS AND STOLE CLOSE TO \$33,000 IN EXCESS PAY

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced the arrest of a New York State psychiatric center employee on charges she falsified her time sheets and stole about \$33,000 in excess pay that she never earned during a recent 15-month period.

Indra Mattiace, 61, of Floral Park, a Dietician 2 at the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center in Queens, was arrested today and charged with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree and Defrauding the Government, felonies, and Official Misconduct, a misdemeanor.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Mattiace, who was also a payroll supervisor for the staff in her department at the time, routinely submitted falsified computerized time records from July 2015 through October 2016 indicating she worked overtime or was due a “meal allowance” payment. Those computer pay records were submitted to the New York State Office of Mental Health (“OMH”), which processed them and paid her for the hours submitted. After each of the payments was made, Mattiace then went back into the computerized payroll system and deleted the overtime hours and meal allowance payments she originally submitted.

As a result of Mattiace’s submission of false time records, she was paid \$32,903 for 609.5 overtime hours and meal allowance payments that she never worked.

“This defendant used her position and special access to falsely report her hours worked and brazenly steal from State taxpayers,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue to use the resources of my office to vigorously pursue anyone who violates the public trust.”

“The defendant in this case is alleged to have taken advantage of her trusted position and to have stolen tens of thousands of dollars from New York State and its tax-payers. This kind of thievery will not be tolerated,” said **District Attorney Brown**. “My office will continue to work with our law enforcement partners to arrest and prosecute those who would cheat the system for their own personal gain.”

During the course of the investigation, Mattiace retired from her position with OMH.

Mattiace was arraigned on the charges in Queens County Criminal Court and released pending further court proceedings.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown 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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