



# NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott**

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## **INSPECTOR GENERAL SCOTT ANNOUNCES PLEA OF ONEIDA COUNTY MAN FOR STEALING MORE THAN \$200,000 IN NEW YORK STATE HEALTH INSURANCE FUNDS**

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman announced the plea of an Oneida County man who had been charged with stealing more than \$200,000 dollars in insurance funds provided by UnitedHealthcare (UHC) which is part of the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP).

“Over an extended period of time, my investigation found this individual collected hundreds of thousands of dollars from the state health insurance plan for emergency room care, and rather than pay the health providers as he was required to do, he kept the money for himself,” said Inspector General Scott. “I am pleased that our investigation has resulted in meaningful accountability for his misdeeds.”

“My office is committed to ensuring that there is one set of rules for everyone,” Attorney General Schneiderman said. “Bronson’s conviction sends the message that those who flagrantly abuse the insurance system and take advantage of health care providers will be prosecuted to the fullest extent.”

Jonathan M. Bronson, 39, of Westernville, N.Y., pled guilty to Scheme to Defraud in the first degree, a class E felony, having stolen \$201,335. Bronson, whose case was prosecuted by the Attorney General’s Office, will receive a promised sentence of six months in jail and five years of probation.

Bronson is the spouse of a New York State Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) employee, and collected payments in his wife’s name from UHC to cover frequent out-of-network hospital emergency room visits and ambulance and volunteer fire department calls. He utilized 911 emergency calls for transport to emergency rooms. Bronson deposited the money into his private account and never paid the outstanding bills owed to the medical providers. Bronson’s theft of funds took place between 2010 and 2015.

UHC is one of a number of insurers who provide health care coverage to New York State employees and their families.

Inspector General Scott thanked the Attorney General’s Office for prosecuting this case, and OPWDD and UHC for assisting in the investigation.

Bronson pled before the Hon. Michael L. Dwyer of Oneida County Court. Bronson is scheduled to reappear in court May 8.

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