



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott – Acting Welfare Inspector General

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ROCHESTER WOMAN CHARGED WITH MORE THAN \$9,000 IN WELFARE FRAUD

BUFFALO- New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a Rochester woman on charges she fraudulently received more than \$9,000 in welfare benefits by failing to report income she received through child support payments.

Michelle Newsome, 36, of Cady Street, Rochester, was charged today with Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, Welfare Fraud in the Third Degree, and three (3) counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, felonies.

“This defendant’s failure to disclose her true income enabled her to receive public benefits to which she was not entitled,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “The integrity of the public benefits system is of paramount importance to ensure it effectively assists those who are most in need, and I will continue to dedicate the resources of my office to protect public funds meant for such critical assistance.”

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott with the assistance of the Monroe County Department of Human Services Special Investigations Unit found that Newsome received child support payments from January 2014 through December 2015 while collecting Temporary Assistance benefits through the Monroe County Department of Human Services. None of the income Newsome received from the child support payments was ever reported to the Department of Human Services, as required. The defendant’s failure to report the child support payments that she received resulted in her receiving \$9,578.00 in Temporary Assistance benefits to which she was not entitled.

Newsome was arraigned this morning in Rochester City Court and released pending her reappearance in court Nov. 28, 2017.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Monroe County Department of Human Services Special Investigations Unit 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 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 Welfare Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse or illegal acts committed against public assistance programs designed to help those in need. Our office also investigates complaints about the agencies and local social services districts who administer social services programs. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form: <http://www.ig.ny.gov> or sending an email to: inspector.general@ig.ny.gov. You also can write

*to our office at: Office of the Welfare Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor
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