



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## ROCHESTER WOMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO MORE THAN \$9,500 IN WELFARE FRAUD

ROCHESTER- New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea of a Rochester woman on charges she fraudulently received more than \$9,500 in welfare benefits by failing to report income she received through child support payments.

Michelle Newsome, 36, of Cady Street, Rochester, pleaded guilty today to Welfare Fraud in the Fifth Degree.

“This defendant hid her true income so she would be able to receive taxpayer funded public benefits to which she was not entitled,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “The integrity of the public benefits system is critical to effectively assist those who are most in need, and I will continue to use the resources at my disposal to protect those funds from theft and abuse.”

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 pleaded guilty this morning in Rochester City Court and was released pending her appearance for sentencing on March 29, 2018.

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 her office for prosecuting this matter.

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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](mailto: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 Albany, New York 12223*

