



# NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
September 27, 2012

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## **STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL FINDS CLINTON COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE ACCESSED DMV RECORDS WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION CONTRARY TO FEDERAL DRIVER'S PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT**

### **Unauthorized Access Often Made at the Request of Elected Officials, Including Former Assemblyman Ortloff While He Was Under Criminal Investigation**

Acting New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced her office has found that a former Clinton County Deputy Clerk violated State Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) policy and the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act when he accessed DMV records without authorization and for purposes unrelated to his work. The Deputy Clerk, Glenn Olds, accessed information upon the request of then State Parole Board Member and former State Assemblyman George "Chris" Ortloff, who was under criminal investigation, and County Clerk John Zurlo, who wanted contact information for constituents.

"When public officials violate the privacy of citizens, they are not only breaking the law but undermining the public's trust," said Inspector General Scott. "Shameful incidents like these put public servants under a cloud of suspicion. I thank the State DMV, which has agreed to take corrective action to further prevent such conduct."

In September 2008, while Ortloff was being investigated for soliciting sex with underage girls, he asked Olds to access information regarding the registration of a license plate of what turned out to be the car of an investigator. In March 2009, upon being advised by law enforcement that the integrity of the DMV database had been compromised, DMV contacted the Inspector General, who initiated an investigation.

The Inspector General's investigation found that on numerous occasions, Olds made unauthorized access at the request of Zurlo. Olds indicated Zurlo wanted addresses and birthdates of constituents so he could send them birthday cards. Olds indicated that Zurlo's requests were frequent, and that he knew accessing the database for these reasons was inappropriate, but he did not want to defy Zurlo, his supervisor. In his interview with the Inspector General, Zurlo admitted to enlisting Olds to access the DMV database on his behalf.

Additionally, the Inspector General determined that internal controls and computer security were lax, as DMV employees were able to easily access the database using Olds's ID and passcode, which was fastened to their work station by sticky note.

Olds has resigned his position, which precludes disciplinary action against him. However, the Inspector General has recommended that Clinton County officials review the conduct of Clinton County DMV staff involved in the unauthorized and improper database accesses and take appropriate action. The Inspector General has further recommended that the New York State DMV conduct random audits of the Clinton County DMV to ensure compliance with database access protocols and train Clinton County DMV staff on DMV policy

regarding the proper use of the database and information disclosure. The State DMV has indicated it will comply with the Inspector General's recommendations.

The Inspector General will provide to the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York information regarding the violations of the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act.

A copy of the report can be found online by clicking [here](#).

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