



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Acting Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 26, 2012

State Health Worker Arrested for Submitting False Documents to Wrongfully Obtain Accessible Parking

DOH Employee Charged with Possessing a Forged Instrument and Falsifying Timesheets

Acting State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a New York State Department of Health employee on felony charges, accusing him of submitting an application for handicapped parking supported by a forged doctor's note. He also was charged with filing paperwork certifying he was working when he was not.

Travis Witt, age 27, of Malta, New York, was arrested this morning by investigators from the New York State Inspector General's Office and charged with four felony counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and one misdemeanor count of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Third Degree. He faces up to four years in prison if convicted.

The Inspector General's investigation determined that in May of 2011, Witt obtained special parking privileges at his work location at Empire State Plaza based on a forged doctor's note. In addition, Defendant admitted that on three separate occasions in January and February of 2012, he submitted certified time records indicating that he had worked full days when he had not reported to work at all.

"New Yorkers have every right to expect that state employees will comport themselves with the highest degree of honesty and integrity," said Acting Inspector General Scott. "Fraudulently obtaining handicapped parking not only is unlawful, but potentially inhibits the rights of New Yorkers with disabilities in need of accessible parking. Further, any fraudulent abuse of time and attendance records undermines public trust. Such conduct is not tolerable."

Witt was arraigned today before Town of New Scotland Judge David Wukitschand held in County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 cash or bond.

Witt has worked for the Department of Health as an Information Technology Specialist II since 2007. His current salary is \$58,311.00.

Acting Inspector General Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance in the case and the Albany County District Attorney's Office for the prosecution of this matter.

The defendant is innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

###

Additional releases available at www.ig.ny.gov
For more information contact (518) 474-1010