



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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FINGER LAKES CONTRACTOR FACES FELONY FOR FAILING TO PROVIDE WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR HIS EMPLOYEES

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of a Seneca County contractor on a felony Workers' Compensation charge for failing to provide required coverage for his employees.

Steven Pollot, 37, of Waterloo, owner of D&S Home Improvements-Property Maintenance, was arrested and charged today with the Workers' Compensation crime of Failure to Secure Compensation, a felony.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Pollot has never obtained Workers' Compensation coverage for employees of his business and during a 2015 siding and roof repair project at a Cayuga County home he employed seven people, not including himself. Pollot confirmed he had employees on the project including several employees he hired through Craigslist. Under New York State law, employers are required to obtain Workers' Compensation coverage for anyone they employ.

“This contractor's alleged fraud left his workers vulnerable, enabling him to pocket extra profits while also giving him an unfair advantage over honest New York businesses,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “The State's Workers' Compensation system is a vital protection for honest employees and I will pursue anyone who abuses it.”

Workers' Compensation fraud impacts all New Yorkers, from increased insurance premiums to increased workloads for coworkers and an overall reduction in workforce productivity.

Pollot was arraigned in the Aurelius Town Court and released on \$1,000 cash bail pending his reappearance in court Dec. 6, 2017.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the investigation and arrest, and Cayuga County District Attorney Jon E. Budelmann and his office for assisting with the investigation and prosecuting this matter.

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The New York State Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse and/or illegal acts against the New York State Workers' Compensation system, including fraud by medical service providers, employers seeking to evade appropriate Workers' Compensation charges, and employees

who fabricate injuries to fraudulently receive system benefits. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form at <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 Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor, Albany, New York 12223