



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL  
**Final Report**  
**March 31, 2011**

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The New York State Inspector General found that Elcie Gordon, a nursing assistant employed by the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center, provided false background information to two state agencies and filed fraudulent documents with the federal government. SUNY Downstate Medical Center fired Gordon.

## ALLEGATION

On December 3, 2008, the Inspector General received an e-mail from Rollo French, Elcie Gordon's ex-husband, alleging that Gordon had provided documents containing a false date of birth to the state. French also alleged that Gordon committed bigamy by remarrying without obtaining a divorce.

## SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

### **Background**

Elcie Gordon was married to Rollo French in Guyana on December 20, 1991. Gordon legally entered the United States on March 7, 1992 and filed an application for citizenship. Pursuant to the normal process, while the application was pending, Gordon was issued a Social Security number. At some point after entering the United States, Gordon and French separated but were not legally divorced when Gordon remarried. At the time of their separation, French's and Gordon's joint application for citizenship was pending.

In 2000, Elcie Gordon "married" Albert Gordon while still legally married to French. Elcie Gordon asserted to the Inspector General that, at the time she married Albert Gordon, she believed she was legally divorced from French because French had informed her that he had "taken care of it." Gordon claimed that she did not learn that she was still legally married to French until 2003, when French had divorce papers served on her.

On April 14, 2000, while her first citizenship application was still pending, Elcie Gordon filed a second application for citizenship. In order to conceal her previous but still pending immigration application, Gordon altered her birth certificate by changing her date of birth from March 5, 1958 to March 5, 1963, for submission with her new citizenship application. Gordon also falsely indicated that she had not been previously married and that she had not filed an earlier application. Gordon's fraudulent second application was accepted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and she was issued a second Social Security number and an Employment Authorization Document (commonly known as a "work permit").

Elcie Gordon admitted to the Inspector General that she changed her date of birth and lied about having previously been married in order to conceal her pending application from ICE. Elcie Gordon testified that she did so on the advice of a friend of Albert Gordon, an individual who she claimed was familiar with the immigration process. When interviewed by the Inspector General, Albert Gordon denied that a friend of his provided any assistance and further asserted that, at the time he married Elcie Gordon, he did not know that she was still married or that she was not truly born on March 5, 1963.

### **Gordon Provided False Pedigree Information to New York State**

In October 2004, Gordon was hired by SUNY Downtown Medical Center as a Nursing Assistant II. During the hiring process, Gordon provided her fraudulently obtained Employment Authorization Document which included the false date of birth as March 5, 1963. Furthermore, Elcie Gordon included her incorrect date of birth and fraudulently obtained Social Security number on her submitted application forms for SUNY employment.

In addition to the false information provided to SUNY, Gordon provided fraudulently obtained documents and false information to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in order to obtain a New York State driver license. On November 10, 1993, Gordon had obtained a New York State non-driver identification card using her maiden name, Elcie Simon, and her true date of birth. On October 3, 2006, Gordon applied for a New York State Driver License. On that application, Gordon falsely indicated that she had not previously been issued a New York State non-driver identification card and that her date of birth was March 5, 1963. She also supplied her fraudulently obtained Employment Authorization Document as proof of identification.

On July 17, 2009, after Gordon admitted to the Inspector General that she had previously provided false information to DMV to obtain a license, Gordon filed additional false documents with the DMV to obtain a replacement license.

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The New York State Inspector General found that Elcie Gordon, a nursing assistant employed by the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, provided false background

information to two state agencies and filed fraudulent documents with the federal government.

The Inspector General has advised the appropriate federal and state authorities of the findings of this investigation.

SUNY Downstate Medical Center advised the Inspector General that it terminated Gordon effective December 13, 2010.