



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 2, 2016
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DIRECTOR OF DENTISTRY FOR STATE'S INCARCERATED YOUTH BILLED NEARLY \$75,000 FOR HOURS HE NEVER WORKED

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest of the State's director of dentistry for incarcerated youth on charges he billed taxpayers nearly \$75,000 for hours he should have been working at his government job but was instead treating private patients at commercial dental offices in Saratoga Springs and Amsterdam.

Dr. Neil Schachter, 61, of Route 423, Saratoga Springs, was arrested today and charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, Forgery in the Second Degree and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, all felonies.

Schachter, the director of dentistry at the State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth ("DJJOY"), was arraigned today in Rensselaer City Court and released pending his reappearance November 23 in court. In his position as director of dentistry, Schachter is in charge of other dentists and dental hygienists who treat incarcerated youth across New York.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that between September of 2013 and early this year, Schachter filed time sheets charging the State for nearly \$75,000 in time that he was supposed to be working at OCFS but was in fact working at private commercial dental practices in Saratoga Springs and Amsterdam. The investigation also found that in December 2014, Schachter created a fraudulent letter purportedly from his former supervisor which falsely authorized the work arrangement in which he could collect two salaries at the same time, one from the State and one from his private practices.

"This defendant exploited his government role and defrauded the State to criminally supplement his six-figure salary at taxpayer expense," said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. "I will continue to use all resources at my disposal to pursue and hold accountable anyone who violates the public trust."

"My office takes all allegations involving the breach of public trust extremely seriously, and will ensure those who do so will be held accountable for their actions," said **Rensselaer County District Attorney Joel E. Abelow**. "I would like to commend Inspector General Leahy Scott and her staff for their hard work and collaboration in this case."

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the OCFS Special Investigations Unit for their assistance with the investigation, the City of Rensselaer Police Department for their assistance with the arrest and Rensselaer County District Attorney Abelow and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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

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