



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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## SUSPENDED DIRECTOR OF DENTISTRY FOR STATE'S INCARCERATED YOUTH PLEADS GUILTY TO THEFT OF \$68,000 FOR TIME HE NEVER WORKED

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Rensselaer County District Attorney Joel E. Ablove today announced the guilty plea of the State's director of dentistry for incarcerated youth in a case in which he stole approximately \$68,000 in public funds by billing 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, pleaded guilty today in Rensselaer City Court to Official Misconduct. Concurrent to his plea, Schachter paid full restitution of \$68,000 to the State and agreed to cooperate with investigators on another matter. The plea was in full satisfaction to the felony Grand Larceny charges filed against Schachter in November 2016.

Schachter, the director of dentistry at the State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth ("DJJOY"), remains suspended from his job without pay. In his position as director of dentistry, Schachter is in charge of other dentists and dental hygienists who treat incarcerated youth across New York.

"This defendant exploited taxpayers with the theft of public funds that he used to supplement a six-figure salary he was already earning in private practice," said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. "I will continue to use all resources at my disposal to pursue anyone who violates the public trust."

"Today's conviction demonstrates our commitment to aggressively prosecute those who steal from taxpayers. This defendant betrayed the public trust, and has been held accountable," said **District Attorney Ablove**. "My office will continue to collaborate with the Inspector General and other agencies to pursue those individuals who abuse their positions for personal gain."

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that between September of 2013 and early 2016, Schachter filed time sheets charging the State for hours 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.

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 Joel E. Ablove and his office for prosecuting this matter.

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