



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott – Acting Welfare Inspector General**

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## QUEENS COUPLE PLEAD GUILTY TO NEAR SIX-FIGURE WELFARE FRAUD

NEW YORK CITY - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott and Queens County District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced the guilty pleas of a Queens husband and wife who stole nearly \$92,000 in welfare food stamp and health care benefits by concealing income they earned through employment.

Dhaneshwar Sukhdeo, 42, and Samantha Sukhdeo, 47, of Lefferts Boulevard, each pleaded guilty today in Queens Criminal Court to Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a felony, for falsifying applications for public assistance benefits enabling them to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (also known as SNAP or food stamps) and Medicaid benefits to which they were not entitled. As part of their plea, the couple signed certificates of judgement for the full amount stolen.

“This couple brazenly concealed their household income to fraudulently obtain taxpayer-funded public benefits to which they were not entitled,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will continue using all of the resources at my disposal to protect the public benefits system from fraud to help ensure they remain available for those who are truly in the most need of financial assistance.”

“The defendants in this case gamed the system for their own personal benefit. Food stamps and Medicaid are intended to help the truly needy. But, this couple made all taxpayers their victims when they manipulated their way into getting more than \$80,000 in benefits,” said **Queens District Attorney Brown**. “By pleading guilty, the pair have admitted to doing the crime. This kind of criminal greed will not be tolerated. I want to thank the Inspector General and her office for their hard work on this case.”

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that between 2009 to 2016, the Sukhdeos fraudulently obtained \$91,996 in welfare benefits to which they were not entitled by repeatedly submitting documents falsifying and concealing their household income when applying for food stamps and Medicaid coverage. Medicaid is a joint federal-state program that provides health coverage for low income and at-risk individuals. In repeated applications and recertifications for the benefits, the Sukhdeos listed no employment income for Dhaneshwar Sukhdeo, who was in fact receiving income as an electrical contractor.

Altogether, the Sukhdeos received \$75,864.74 in Medicaid and \$16,132 in food stamps to which they were not entitled.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York City Human Resources Administration for their assistance with the investigation, and Queens County District Attorney Brown and his office for their assistance with the investigation and for prosecuting this matter.

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*The New York State Office of the Welfare Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse or illegal acts committed against public assistance programs designed to help those in need. Our office also investigates complaints about the agencies and local social services districts who administer social services programs. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form: <http://www.ig.ny.gov> or sending an email to: [inspector.general@ig.ny.gov](mailto:inspector.general@ig.ny.gov). You also can write to our office at: Office of the Welfare Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor Albany, New York 12223*