



NEWS RELEASE

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

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For More Information Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

STATEN ISLAND BUSINESS OWNER PLEADS GUILTY IN WELFARE FRAUD CASE

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the guilty plea of a Staten Island man on charges that he and another individual fraudulently obtained tens of thousands of dollars in Medicaid and food stamp benefits by hiding hundreds of thousands of dollars in income and assets that made them ineligible to receive any welfare benefits at all.

Igor Urovish, 56, of Staten Island, pleaded guilty in Richmond County Criminal Court today to Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree. Concurrent to his plea, Urovish submitted a check to the New York City Human Resources Administration for \$25,000 in restitution.

“This defendant used his experience to enrich himself by perpetrating a long-term fraud against welfare service agencies,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will use the resources of my office investigate and put a stop to anyone defrauding the welfare system.”

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that from 2009 through early 2014, Urovish and another individual stole more than \$100,000 in Medicaid and food stamp benefits through an elaborate fraud that included the concealment or underreporting of income from various corporations Urovish owned, trust funds he managed and child support payments that would have made them ineligible for the more than \$100,000 in welfare assistance Urovish and the other individual received. The other individual in this case remains at large.

During the full years reviewed, the investigation found that Urovish’s bank records, and other evidence, showed a minimum annual household income of between \$67,000 and \$93,000. The investigation determined that at various points during the fraud, the Urovish family held ownership interests in corporations from which they derived income, including First Advanced Care, Inc. and IVU Management, ambulance companies that transported patients receiving Medicaid. These assets and income were either not reported or underreported to the New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) in welfare benefits applications for Urovish and his family during the years in question. Additionally, Urovish and his family received other income, which at times was not reported to HRA, from two trusts and from relatives. During those years, Urovish and his family reported to HRA monthly income anywhere from between no income to a few hundred dollars for some months and a maximum of about \$1,500 on a few occasions.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked HRA for their assistance with the investigation and Richmond County District Attorney Michael E. McMahon and his office for their assistance with the investigation and for prosecuting the case.

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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. 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