



# NEWS RELEASE

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

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

## **QUEENS NOT-FOR-PROFIT EXECUTIVE ADMITS EMBEZZLING PUBLIC FUNDS TO COVER HER POSH LIFESTYLE WITH MAIDS AND NANNIES, A PERSONAL SPA AND LUXURY FURNISHINGS**

NEW YORK CITY - New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the federal guilty plea of a Queens not-for-profit top executive on charges she embezzled approximately \$100,000 in federal and state funds meant to serve the developmentally disabled to subsidize her posh personal lifestyle, including maids and nannies, a personal spa and luxury furnishings for her home.

Yolanda Vitulli, 53, formerly of Merrick, N.Y., and now of Mohnton, PA., pleaded guilty today in Brooklyn federal court to embezzling public funds. She was indicted on the charge by a Brooklyn federal grand jury in June.

Between January 2001 and May 2016, Vitulli served as the Executive Director of Tender Care Human Services Inc. ("Tender Care"), a not-for-profit social service provider based in Queens, New York, that provided services to individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities throughout the metropolitan New York City area. Tender Care received approximately \$3 million in federal and New York State Medicaid funding each year.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott and her federal law enforcement partners found that between 2009 and May 2014, Vitulli used the charity's funds to pay housekeepers who were employed at her personal residence and who cleaned, did laundry and provided childcare services for Vitulli.

Additionally, between January 2012 and November 2013, Vitulli used stolen Tender Care funds to hire a contractor to purchase and install a Bahama Spas hot tub, which promises to "bring a sense of vacation to your backyard and a sense of serenity to your life." She also allegedly used the taxpayer-subsidized funds for the installation of a new dishwasher, a security camera system, fencing at her property and bedroom furniture from Ethan Allen promoted as "icons of livable luxury."

"The defendant greedily preyed on some of New York's most vulnerable citizens to subsidize her own life of luxury," said Inspector General Leahy Scott. "Anyone who exploits the developmentally disabled and steals taxpayer funds will be identified, apprehended and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

Vitulli is expected to appear in Brooklyn federal court on Feb. 22, 2017 for sentencing.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Robert L. Capers and his office for prosecuting this case and Assistant Director-in-Charge of the FBI New York Field Office William F. Sweeney, Jr., and his agents for their partnership investigating this matter.

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