



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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CENTRAL NEW YORK PSYCHIATRIC CENTER EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH TIME ABUSE AND WAGE THEFT

UTICA – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott today announced the arrest on felony charges of an employee at the Central New York Psychiatric Center (CNYPC), a facility run by the New York State Office of Mental Health, accusing him of time abuse and theft of wages for repeatedly arriving late or leaving work early while submitting attendance records showing he worked full shifts.

Damion Walton, 41, of Oswego Street in Utica, NY, was arrested and arraigned on charges of ten counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, all felonies.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that while Walton was employed as a Secure Care Treatment Aide 2 at CNYPC from October 2016 through April 2018 he repeatedly arrived late or left work early while submitting attendance records indicating he worked his full 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. shifts. The charges allege Walton knowingly filled out and submitted false time sheets with the intent to be paid for working full shifts when he did not. Walton is accused of stealing more than \$3,000 in wages to which he was not entitled.

“As alleged, this defendant enriched himself through the theft of wages by routinely coming in late and leaving early while submitting records showing he put in the required eight hours each day,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “State service is meant to serve the public, and I will pursue anyone who so blatantly abuses the public trust.”

Walton was arraigned on the charges Wednesday evening at and remanded to the Oneida County Jail in lieu of \$10,000 bail pending his reappearance in in the Town of Marcy Court on Oct. 23, 2018.

The Inspector General thanked the New York State Office of Mental Health for their assistance with the investigation, the New York State Police for their assistance with the arrest, and Oneida County District Attorney Scott D. McNamara 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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