



# NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General  
**Catherine Leahy Scott**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 20, 2017  
Contact [John Milgrim](#): 518-474-1010

## **CENTRAL NEW YORK WOMAN CHARGED WITH WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND WELFARE FRAUD**

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced today the arrest of a City of Auburn resident on charges she defrauded the Workers' Compensation system and separately obtained food stamps to which she was not entitled by misrepresenting her employment and the wages she was making.

Lisa Whyte, 39, of Auburn, was charged with four counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and one count of the Workers' Compensation crime of Fraudulent Practices, all felonies, as well as Welfare Fraud in the Fifth Degree, Misuse of Food Stamps and Petit Larceny, misdemeanors.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Whyte injured her shoulder in the summer of 2013 while pulling a cart in a grocery store stock room where she was working at the time. Following the injury, she went out on Workers' Compensation leave and began receiving weekly wage replacement benefits. From the time of her injury through the spring of 2015, Whyte repeatedly indicated on insurance claim forms and at medical exams that she was not employed in any capacity while receiving the benefits. The investigation, however, found that Whyte was employed with her own cleaning business from the time of her injury through at least the summer of 2014.

Separately, at certain times in 2013 and 2014, Whyte received more than \$200 worth of food stamp benefits to which she was not entitled by not properly disclosing her cleaning business income to the Cayuga County Department of Social Services, which administers welfare benefits such as food stamps in the county.

“This defendant misrepresented her true employment history,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “I will use all of the resources at my disposal to pursue anyone who defrauds the welfare and Workers' Compensation systems.”

Whyte was arraigned in Auburn City Court and released pending further court action.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the Auburn Police Department for their assistance with the arrest and Cayuga County District Attorney Jon E. Budelmann and his office for prosecuting this case.

The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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*The New York State Office of the Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse and/or illegal acts against the New York State Workers' Compensation system, including fraud by medical service providers, employers seeking to evade appropriate Workers' Compensation charges, and employees*

*who fabricate injuries to fraudulently receive system benefits. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form at <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 Workers' Compensation Fraud Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor, Albany, New York 12223*