



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Dec. 28, 2017
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STATE OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH EMPLOYEE AND HIS WIFE CHARGED IN FORGED MEDICAL RECORD SCHEME

ALBANY – New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the arrest of a State Office of Mental Health Safety and Security Officer, and his wife, on charges of obtaining and using falsified medical record to substantiate time off from work.

Gregory Jones, 42, and his wife, Brooks Jones, 42, of Utica, were each arrested and charged on allegations they created and possessed a forged medical record used to justify Gregory Jones's time off from his government job.

Gregory Jones was charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, felonies.

Brooks Jones was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a felony.

An investigation by Inspector General Leahy Scott found that Gregory Jones, who works at the Mohawk Valley Psychiatric Center in Utica, filed a Standard Medical Certification form – which serves as a doctor's note that an individual did in fact have a medical reason to take the time off - in late September 2017 justifying time off from work. That form, however, came from the doctor's office in which Brooks Jones works, and the physician whose signature was on the form indicated he had never treated Gregory Jones and that the signature on the form was not his own.

“By obtaining and using fraudulent medical records, this couple violated the public trust inherent to the position Mr. Jones has held with the State of New York,” said **Inspector General Leahy Scott**. “I will pursue any public employee who uses falsified documents to defraud the government.”

Gregory Jones was arraigned on the charges and released pending further court action in Utica City Court. Brooks Jones was arraigned and also released pending further court action in New Hartford Town Court on January 2, 2018.

Inspector General Leahy Scott thanked the New York State Police for their assistance with the investigation, and Oneida County District Attorney Scott D. McNamara and his office for prosecuting this matter.

The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.

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