



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Letizia Tagliaferro

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STATE DETENTION CENTER'S PRIVATE MEDICAL PROVIDER EMPLOYEE SENTENCED, PAYS RESTITUTION, FOR THEFT FROM STATE

BROOKLYN – New York State Inspector General Letizia Tagliaferro announced today the sentencing of one of two staff members for a State juvenile detention center's private medical services provider for stealing and assisting in the theft of earnings.

Roy Hammonds, 65, of Nyack, was sentenced Wednesday to \$10,000 restitution, three years of probation and a \$1,000 fine for his prior larceny conviction in Brooklyn. Patricia Armstrong, 67, of Kingston Avenue, Brooklyn, who pleaded guilty as part of the same case late last year to Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a felony, is also expected to pay \$20,000 at her sentencing scheduled for March 27, 2019 in New York State Supreme Court in Brooklyn.

Hammonds, a physician's assistant, and Armstrong, a nursing supervisor, both stole tens of thousands of dollars in unearned salary each while employed at Brooklyn's Ella McQueen (juvenile detention) Reception Center. Both were employees of Correctional Medical Care ("CMC"), a company that provides medical staff to New York State correctional facilities, including the Ella McQueen Reception Center in Brooklyn. The Ella McQueen Center is a juvenile detention center reception facility run by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS").

"These two defendants should have been helping vulnerable youth but instead helped themselves to no-show jobs and violated the public trust," said **Inspector General Tagliaferro**. I will continue working with my law enforcement partners to pursue anyone who steals taxpayer funds."

An investigation by the Offices of the New York Inspector General found that Armstrong completed her own and Hammond's time records and submitted them to CMC's headquarters for payment. Armstrong submitted employee timesheets containing false information to CMC. Under contract with the State, CMC directly pays its employees and is reimbursed by the State subsequent to the submission of invoices.

Inspector General Tagliaferro thanked the Office of the New York State Attorney General for their work prosecuting these cases.

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