



Offices of the
Inspector General

LUCY LANG
Inspector General

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March 31, 2022

Anthony J. Annucci, Esq.
Acting Commissioner
New York State Department of Corrections
and Community Supervision
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12226

Re: NYS IG 3633-316-2019

Dear Acting Commissioner Annucci:

On December 16, 2019, the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) alleged to the Offices of the New York State Inspector General that Correction Officer [REDACTED] provided potentially fraudulent medical notes to DOCCS excusing his absences that were signed by his mother, [REDACTED], who is a nurse practitioner.

The Inspector General investigated this allegation and found that [REDACTED], who is assigned to Sullivan Correctional Facility, has been disciplined by DOCCS for multiple unexcused absences. In the current matter, the Inspector General's investigation found that on three occasions in 2019, [REDACTED] provided medical notes to DOCCS excusing his absences that were written by his mother, [REDACTED], a nurse practitioner at [REDACTED].

The investigation found no corroborating evidence that [REDACTED] sought or received medical treatment or was physically evaluated on the three dates in 2019 for which he provided medical notes to DOCCS. [REDACTED] mother, [REDACTED], testified to the Inspector General that she, in fact, wrote these medical notes for her son, but claimed that they were medically necessary and not baseless excuses to provide him leave from work. [REDACTED] could not explain the lack of corroborating entries made in [REDACTED] medical file.

[REDACTED] via his attorney, declined a voluntary interview with the Inspector General.

Notably, the investigation found that DOCCS Directive 2202, which governs DOCCS' "Attendance Control Program" and outlines the necessary documentation required for absences, does not specifically address medical documentation signed by an employee's family member. Therefore, I recommend that DOCCS review this directive and evaluate the efficacy of allowing medical notes written by family members of employees.

Please advise me of any action taken by DOCCS in response to these recommendations within 45 days of the date of this letter. If you require further information, please contact Attorney-in-Charge for DOCCS George Frany at

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Lucy Lang
Inspector General

cc: Cathy Y. Sheehan, Esq.
Deputy Commissioner and Counsel