



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD INSPECTOR GENERAL

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LETIZIA TAGLIAFIERRO
INSPECTOR GENERAL

December 3, 2020

Howard A. Zucker
Commissioner
New York State Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12237

Re: OWIG 3639-318-2018

Dear Commissioner Zucker:

In October 2018, the Florida Department of Financial Services alleged to the Office of the New York State Welfare Inspector General that [REDACTED], a resident of Florida, may be criminally impersonating another person, [REDACTED] to obtain public assistance benefits in New York.

The Office of the Welfare Inspector General investigated this allegation and found that New York State Medicaid Healthcare Exchange benefits have been paid to [REDACTED] (SSN: [REDACTED]; DOB: [REDACTED]; CIN [REDACTED]; Address: [REDACTED]) since February 2017, totaling \$64,542.27 through September 2020. Given [REDACTED] alleged location in Florida and the lack of actionable information available, the Office of the Welfare Inspector General has been unable to determine whether [REDACTED] has been impersonating [REDACTED] and receiving benefits unlawfully.

I strongly recommend that the Department of Health review all activity associated with CIN number [REDACTED] and related cases and take appropriate action. That action may include requiring the recipient to appear for an interview, making a determination of eligibility, and/or deactivating the CIN number.

Please advise me of the action taken by the Department of Health in response to this recommendation within 45 days of the date of this letter. If you require further information, please contact Assistant Inspector General for Welfare Ben Defibaugh at 212.635.3150.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Letizia Tagliafierro
Inspector General

Cc: Michael Bass, Esq.
Acting General Counsel
New York State Department of Health

Erin E. Ives
Acting Medicaid Inspector General
New York State Office of the Medicaid Inspector General