



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 26, 2015
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ORAL SURGEON PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUDULENTLY BILLING STATE FOR WORK ON INMATES HE NEVER PERFORMED

New York State Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced a western New York oral surgeon has pled guilty to charges he fraudulently billed the State of New York more than \$14,000 for dental work he never performed on state correctional facility inmates. The oral surgeon was contracted by the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCS) to perform the work for more than two dozen correctional facilities.

“The defendant contracted to provide dental care services to state inmates who needed it,” said Inspector General Scott. “This individual, in an effort to enrich himself at the expense of the taxpayers inflated the cost of his procedures by falsifying claims and boosting his own profits. As a result of my investigation, he will be held accountable and pay restitution to the State of New York.”

Timothy J. O’Keefe, 45, pled guilty to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. As part of the plea, O’Keefe will serve six months incarceration and pay full restitution in the amount of \$14,640. The defendant’s conduct has been reported to the New York State Department of Education, which licenses oral surgeons.

O’Keefe appeared before the Hon. Peter Lynch of Albany County Court.

Inspector General Scott’s investigation found that O’Keefe filed billing vouchers from 2009 to 2011, falsely claiming to have completed difficult and more costly oral surgery procedures than he actually performed.

O’Keefe had been contracted by DOCCS to provide oral surgery services to 26 state correctional facilities in western and central New York, and the North Country. His contract was terminated in early 2014 amid the Inspector General’s investigation.

Inspector General Scott thanked DOCCS for its assistance in the investigation, New York State Police for the arrest, and the New York State Attorney General for the prosecution of this matter.

O’Keefe is scheduled to reappear in court on February 12th for sentencing.

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