

A.G. Schneiderman And I.G. Scott Announce Sentencing Of Oral Surgeon Who Stole Over \$14,000 From New York State

Dr. Timothy O'Keefe Sentenced To Six Months In Jail And Required To Pay Restitution For Billing The State For Work He Did Not Perform While Treating Inmates At Correctional Facilities Across The State

ALBANY – Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman and Inspector General Catherine Leahy-Scott today announced the sentencing of Dr. Timothy J. O'Keefe, an oral surgeon who contracted with the Department Of Corrections And Community Supervision (DOCCS) to provide specialty dental care for inmates at 26 correctional facilities in upstate New York. Investigators determined that O'Keefe repeatedly billed DOCCS for surgical procedures he did not perform. O'Keefe pleaded guilty to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the Second Degree and was sentenced today in Albany County Court by the Honorable Peter A. Lynch to six months incarceration and is required to pay \$14,640 in restitution.

“Contractors who overbill the state for services they do not perform are stealing from taxpayers and wasting precious resources that could be used for legitimate purposes,” said Attorney General Schneiderman. “My office is committed to protecting taxpayers from waste and abuse and today’s sentencing makes it clear that those who steal from the state will face consequences, including jail time.”

“This individual tried to exploit the system, developing a scheme to inflate his income by making false claims about the work he performed,” said Inspector General Scott. “As a result of this investigation he is returning taxpayer dollars to the state and will be serving time in prison as a consequence of his actions.”

O'Keefe admitted that, from in or around August 2009 to in or around April 2011, he submitted false invoices to DOCCS, over-billing the State by ‘upcoding,’ i.e. billing surgical extractions (a simpler procedure reimbursing at a lower rate) as bony impactions (a more complicated procedure reimbursed at a higher rate). In addition to jail time and restitution, O'Keefe is also required to participate in any program and/or monitoring recommended by the New York State Department of Education’s Office of the Professions.

The defendant is known to have performed dental work at the following correctional facilities:

Albion
Orleans
Attica
Wyoming
Collins
Gowanda
Lakeview
Livingston
Groveland
Butler
Five Points
Cayuga

Elmira
Southport
Ogdensburg
Riverview
Gouverneur
Watertown
Cape Vincent
Upstate
Bare Hill
Franklin
Chateaugay
Altona
Clinton
Adirondack

The Attorney General thanks the Office of the New York State Inspector General, the Office of the New York State Comptroller, and the DOCCS Inspector General's Office for their invaluable assistance in this case. The initial investigation by the New York State Inspector General's Office was handled by former Senior Investigative Attorney Jeffrey Hagen, now Senior Counsel in Attorney General Schneiderman's Office.

The investigation was handled by Senior Investigator Sandra Migaj and Supervising Investigator Richard Doyle of the Attorney General's Investigations Bureau. The Investigations Bureau is led by Deputy Bureau Chief Antoine Karam and Bureau Chief Dominick Zarrella.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Counsel Wanda Perez-Maldonado and Assistant Attorney General Yujin Hong of the Public Integrity Bureau with the assistance of Legal Analyst Morgan McCollum. The Bureau is led by Deputy Bureau Chief Stacy Aronowitz and Bureau Chief Daniel G. Cort. The Attorney General's Criminal Justice Division is led by Executive Deputy Attorney General Kelly Donovan.