



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE WELFARE INSPECTOR GENERAL

**Catherine Leahy Scott – Acting Welfare Inspector General**

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## **GUILTY PLEA ANNOUNCED IN \$80,000 WELFARE FRAUD PERPETRATED BY DECADE-LONG IDENTITY THEFT**

NEW YORK CITY – New York State Acting Welfare Inspector General Catherine Leahy Scott announced the guilty plea of a New York City man who defrauding the State of more than \$80,000 in public benefits by stealing the identity of an Albany man with whom he was acquainted.

Aldolphis Dukeshire, age 46, of Manhattan, pleaded guilty to one count of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony. He admitted to stealing a total of \$80,140.52 in Temporary Assistance, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Medicaid benefits between 2003 and 2013 by assuming the identity of an Albany man he met in New York City more than 20 years ago. The man was unaware Dukeshire was using his identity to obtain public assistance benefits.

“This individual turned a ruse into a long-term scheme to steal public assistance benefits to which he was not entitled,” said Inspector General Leahy Scott. “My office will relentlessly pursue and bring to justice those who cheat the welfare system.”

The state welfare programs from which Dukeshire fraudulently received benefits include Medicaid, which is available to income-qualifying New Yorkers who are unable to pay for medical care; Temporary Assistance, which provides temporary cash assistance for those who are unable to work, cannot find a job, or whose job income is insufficient to meet cost-of-living expenses; and SNAP (also known as food stamps), a federally-funded program which provides benefits to help low-income New Yorkers feed their families.

The Inspector General thanked the New York County District Attorney Cyrus Vance and his office for their assistance with the prosecution of this case, as well as the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles for their assistance with the investigation. Dukeshire pleaded before the Hon. Larry Stephen of Supreme Court Criminal Term. He is scheduled to return to court August 13 for sentencing.

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*The New York State Office of the Welfare Inspector General investigates fraud, abuse or illegal acts committed against public assistance programs designed to help those in need. Our office also investigates complaints about the agencies and local social services districts who administer social services programs. Complaints and referrals are kept confidential. We can be reached by calling toll free: 1-800-367-4448, utilizing our online complaint form: <http://www.ig.state.ny.gov> or sending an email to: [inspector.general@ig.ny.gov](mailto:inspector.general@ig.ny.gov). You also can write to our office at: Office of the Welfare Inspector General, Empire State Plaza, Agency Building 2, 16th Floor Albany, New York 12223.*