



STATE OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL
Final Report
December 8, 2010

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The New York State Inspector General found that James “Scott” Keyser, a general mechanic employed by the New York State Department of Health at Helen Hayes Hospital, misappropriated numerous items from the facility over an extended period. Keyser admitted to his misconduct and resigned his position.

Because Keyser resigned, he is not subject to agency disciplinary action. The Inspector General is forwarding these findings to the Rockland County District Attorney’s Office for its consideration.

ALLEGATION

On April 14, 2010, the Inspector General received a complaint from Helen Hayes Hospital Director of Human Resources Kathleen Martucci that a number of hospital employees had reported that for many years Keyser had been regularly stealing various items from the hospital. Specifically, Martucci was informed by several employees who work closely with Keyser that he removes items from the hospital in his backpack, which he brings to work every day, and that he will steal anything that is “not nailed down.”

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

Helen Hayes Hospital, located in West Haverstraw, New York, is a physical rehabilitative facility offering both inpatient and outpatient services. The hospital is operated by the New York State Department of Health and is affiliated with the New York Presbyterian Healthcare System.

James “Scott” Keyser commenced employment with the Helen Hayes Hospital in 1977 as a grounds worker. Over the ensuing 33 years, Keyser served as a motor vehicle operator, maintenance assistant, grounds supervisor, and, at the time of this investigation, a general mechanic in the engineering department. Keyser’s duties included repairing locks, doors, windows, and various patient equipment and infrastructure items.

Over the course of several months, the Inspector General observed Keyser remove items from the hospital on multiple occasions. On August 3, 2010, based upon information that Keyser had removed hospital items and placed them in his backpack that day, investigators from the Office of the Inspector General approached Keyser and obtained consent to search his backpack. This search revealed a number of items belonging to the hospital including wrenches and small pipes. Keyser admitted to the Inspector General that he had been stealing property from the hospital for approximately eight to nine months. That same day, Keyser submitted his resignation to the hospital. On August 4, 2010, Keyser returned some stolen items in his possession. An itemized inventory of the property returned by Keyser determined that he had misappropriated \$1,600 worth of materials, including rolls of duct tape, drill bits, boxes of screws, and spackle knives.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Inspector General found that Department of Health employee James Keyser misappropriated numerous items from Helen Hayes Hospital over an extended period. Keyser resigned his position from the hospital, thereby precluding agency disciplinary action. The Inspector General is forwarding these findings to the Rockland County District Attorney's Office for its consideration.