



NEWS RELEASE

From New York State Inspector General
Catherine Leahy Scott

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For a digital audio file of Inspector General Leahy Scott's statement, click [HERE](#)

STATEMENT BY NEW YORK STATE INSPECTOR GENERAL CATHERINE LEAHY SCOTT ON DAVID SWEAT'S GUILTY PLEA

“David Sweat, as a convicted murderer already serving life in prison, had all the time he needed to manipulate and extort Clinton Correctional’s profound lapses in security procedures. He recruited assistance from a complicit staff and sawed, chipped and pried his way through the prison’s labyrinthine corridors and ultimately to freedom beyond the walls for himself and another murderer. His brazen actions caused immeasurable harm and fear in the community, endangering the lives of New Yorkers and the brave members of law enforcement who worked tirelessly to effectuate the inmates’ capture. I am working to finalize my extensive investigation into the escape and provide the public a detailed accounting of all the actions and systemic failures that permitted two cold-blooded killers to perpetrate this scheme, as well as propose reforms to help ensure New Yorkers are never again subjected to such an event.”