



The City of New York
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**FORMER CHILD PROTECTIVE SPECIALIST AT THE CITY ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES
CHARGED WITH FALSELY STATING SHE CONDUCTED HOME VISITS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of a former City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS") Child Protective Specialist on charges she entered information into Connections, a database of child welfare cases maintained by the state Office of Children and Family Services, falsely indicating she had conducted home visits with a family. DOI began investigating after ACS reported allegations that the defendant falsified case record entries. The office of New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., is prosecuting the case.

Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "Fiction has no place in attending to the welfare of children. All City employees, most especially those handling sensitive matters such as child protection, are expected to file accurate and truthful information about their work. Individuals who choose to file fraudulent records with the City will face arrest and prosecution."

DARIA MUHAMMAD, 45, of Manhattan, was charged with two counts of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, class E felonies. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison.

According to the criminal complaint, the defendant, a Child Protective Specialist at ACS in June 2009, was responsible for responding to reports of child abuse and / or neglect and made home visits to children and their families. Her duties included writing progress notes of her face-to-face contacts with clients and entering them into the Connections database. DOI's investigation found that in June 2009, the defendant entered information into Connections describing purported face-to-face conversations she had with several family members regarding a child in one of her cases. The defendant's ACS supervisor became suspicious regarding whether the home visits actually occurred. The defendant had failed to include some important facts in the progress notes. Family members – the child's mother, father and a grandmother – confirmed that the defendant had not visited their homes on June 5, 2009.

MUHAMMAD was employed with ACS from April 1997 to August 2009, when she resigned in lieu of termination. At the time of her resignation, she was receiving an annual salary of approximately \$49,561.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked ACS Commissioner Ronald E. Richter and New York County District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., and their staffs, for their assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS.

Assistant District Attorney Clara Henderson from the New York County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.

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