



# Department of Investigation

## *Press Release*

Release #028-99

### **DOI ARRESTS SON OF DECEASED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FOR \$88,000 PENSION FRAUD**

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1999 -- EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of VICTOR SAMUELSON, the son of a retired City school principal, for stealing nearly \$88,000 in City pension checks issued after his father's death.

DOI commenced an investigation this past March after being notified by the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) that it had received two retirement allowance verification affidavits purportedly "signed" by Sidney Samuelson, who had, in fact, died in January 1998. In attempting to contact Mr. Samuelson, TRS officials had been told by his son, VICTOR SAMUELSON, that his father was still alive but had been hospitalized and therefore could not speak with them.

According to today's charges, between February 2, 1998, and February 2, 1999, VICTOR SAMUELSON allegedly stole \$87,637 by endorsing his father's name on thirty-nine (39) pension checks, issued to the elder Samuelson following his death, and then depositing the checks into his own (Victor's) bank account. Sidney Samuelson, who retired from the Board of Education (BOE) in 1977 as the principal of P.S. 27 in the Bronx, had been receiving three (3) TRS checks (his own pension, a tax-deferred annuity payment, and survivor benefits from the TRS pension of his deceased wife, also a former BOE employee) totaling approximately \$6,800 per month.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his appreciation to the Teachers' Retirement System for its assistance and cooperation during the course of the investigation.

SAMUELSON, 45, of the Bronx, has been charged with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The investigation was conducted by Julia Davis, DOI's Inspector General for the New York City Teachers Retirement System, and members of her staff, including Special Investigator Michael Corrigan.

The Office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney Colleen Curtin Gable is handling the matter.