



Department of Investigation

Press Release

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NYCHA CARETAKER FORGES ESTRANGED WIFE'S NAME TO GET GIRLFRIEND A \$400 UNION-PAID TEETH CLEANING

EDWARD J. KURIANSKY, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (DOI), today announced the felony arrest of PABLO WILLIAMS, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) caretaker in the Bronx, for forging his estranged wife's name on a health insurance claim form in order to obtain a union-paid teeth cleaning for his girlfriend, costing over \$400.

According to Commissioner Kuriansky, DOI began an investigation when WILLIAMS's estranged wife notified DOI that her husband had improperly signed her name on a dental insurance claim form.

The investigation disclosed that, WILLIAMS, on February 12, 2000, went to the Bronx office of Dr. Amrit Patel, a dentist, at 1706 Watson Avenue, accompanied by his 22-year-old girlfriend; requested that her teeth be cleaned; and falsely claimed that she was his 30-year-old wife. Dr. Patel performed the cleaning, after which WILLIAMS, a member of Teamsters Local 237, a union representing various NYCHA employees, allegedly signed his estranged wife's name to a dental claim form which stated that his wife had received the covered dental care costing \$410. Thereafter, Dr. Patel's office submitted the claim to the union's insurance carrier, Health Plex Incorporated, of Charles Lindbergh Boulevard in Uniondale, New York, and obtained full payment.

By happenstance, later that month, WILLIAMS's wife telephoned the union's Manhattan office to request a dental claim form for herself, and learned that her husband had previously requested, in September 1999, that the union send dental claim forms to Dr. Patel, a dentist whose services she had never used. Thereafter, on February 28, 2000, WILLIAMS's wife visited Dr. Patel's office and learned that the dentist had just recently opened an active patient file in her name, captioned "services rendered," when she knew that she had never received any dental treatment from him.

WILLIAMS, 32, of 2431 Prospect Avenue in the Bronx, a NYCHA caretaker since March 24, 1997, currently assigned to the Soundview Houses in the Bronx, earns \$28,780 a year. He has been suspended without pay.

WILLIAMS has been charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree and Forgery in the Second Degree, both Class D felonies; Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a Class E felony; and Insurance Fraud in the Fifth Degree and Petit Larceny, both Class A misdemeanors. If convicted, he faces up to 7 years in prison.

Commissioner Kuriansky expressed his sincere appreciation to NYCHA for its cooperation and assistance in the investigation.

The investigation was conducted DOI Assistant Commissioner and NYCHA Inspector General Steven A. Pasichow and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General James Ernst, Assistant Inspector General James Hylton, and Confidential Investigator Emily Bizzarro.

The Office of Bronx District Attorney Robert T. Johnson is prosecuting the case. Assistant District Attorney David Eisenreich, of the DA's Arson, Auto, Economic Crime Unit, is handling the matter.