



The City of New York
Department of Investigation

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**DOI STATEMENT ON THE ARREST OF FORMER ACS CHILD PROTECTIVE SPECIALIST
FOR FALSIFYING CASE RECORDS**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the Department of Investigation (“DOI”), issued the following statement regarding the arrest today of STEPHANIE SABOUNI, a former Child Protective Specialist with the City’s Administration for Children’s Services, on felony charges of falsifying ACS records of cases to which she had been assigned in May and June 2007. The office of New York State Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, “DOI’s investigation revealed a troubling case of a City child protective specialist’s fabricating official reports regarding children and families she never saw. ACS child protective specialists have an important and challenging job working with the City’s vulnerable families and children. For any ACS employee to fabricate case reports is reprehensible and jeopardizes the safety of the children involved.

After several Brooklyn families told ACS employees that they had never met the former child protective specialist who had written about her supposed visits to their homes, ACS alerted DOI. Our investigators reviewed case records, interviewed witnesses and worked with our State colleagues to find the facts and ensure that the charged criminal conduct would be prosecuted.

We’ve also recommended that ACS audit the former employee’s cases and implement procedures that DOI previously recommended, including regular supervisory review of case records, to protect the affected children and ensure that any similar abuses are identified and deterred. Fiction has no place in an ACS case record, and those who would make up reports instead of doing their jobs need to know that such deliberate falsification will be exposed and prosecuted. This case reinforces the findings of some of DOI’s earlier investigations and recommendations for reforms in ACS case work.

I thank ACS Commissioner John Mattingly and his staff for bringing the allegations to our attention and for their cooperation in the investigation.”

Criminal complaints are accusations. Defendants are 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.

Get the worms out of the Big Apple.
To report someone ripping off the City, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.