



The City of New York
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**DOI INVESTIGATION RESULTS IN ARREST OF WOMAN CHARGED WITH STEALING
APPROXIMATELY \$121,000 IN ADOPTION SUBSIDY BENEFITS**

Mark G. Peters, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), issued the following statement on the arrest today of PAMELA KELLER charged with stealing approximately \$121,000 in adoption subsidy payments from the bank account of a deceased woman who had cared for three adoptive children up until her death in June 2008. The benefits were administered by the City Administration for Children's Services ("ACS"), which reported to DOI receiving information that an adoption subsidy recipient continued to obtain subsidies even after her death. The office of Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson is prosecuting the case.

DOI Commissioner Mark G. Peters said, "These subsidies were supposed to assist needy children, not enrich the defendant, according to the charges. Data-matching is a significant step to identifying and stopping fraud before funds are stolen. DOI is working with ACS to ensure this preventive measure is established."

PAMELA KELLER, 49, of Dover, Delaware, was charged today with Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, and 49 counts each of Forgery in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, both class D felonies. Upon conviction, a class C felony is punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a class D felony is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

According to DOI's investigation and the charges outlined in the criminal complaint, three minor children were in the adoptive custody of a woman, until the woman's death in June 2008. ACS was not notified of the woman's death until June 2012, and continued to remit adoption subsidy payments to the woman at her Brooklyn address. The investigation found the defendant directed another individual to forge the woman's signature on the subsidy checks and deposit them into the woman's account. The defendant then used the deceased woman's ATM card and between January 2008 and March 2012 illegally withdrew approximately \$121,000 in ACS-administered adoption subsidy funds from various ATMs, primarily located in Delaware.

As part of this investigation, DOI has recommended that ACS subscribe to the Social Security Administration's Death Master File, and establish a frontline check that compares individuals receiving adoption subsidy benefits with those on the Social Security death master database. This check will allow ACS to identify potential fraud before public funds are disbursed. DOI is working with ACS and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services ("OCFS") to implement the program.

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DOI Commissioner Peters thanked Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson, ACS Commissioner Gladys Carrión, and OCFS Acting Commissioner Sheila J. Poole, and their staffs, for their cooperation and assistance in this investigation.

The investigation was conducted by DOI's Office of the Inspector General for ACS, including Deputy Inspector General John Bellanie under the supervision of Inspector General John Tseng, and was assisted by DOI's Squad of NYPD Detectives.

Assistant District Attorney Joseph DiBenedetto from the office of Kings County District Attorney Kenneth P. Thompson, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Felice Sontupe, Chief of the Frauds Bureau.

A criminal complaint is an accusation. The 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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