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OSIG NEWS

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OSIG Collaborated with Virginia State Police to Investigate Embezzlement Case in Mount Rogers Health District

The Virginia Office of the State Inspector General (OSIG) collaborated with the Virginia State Police (VSP) in an investigation that led to the indictment of a Mount Rogers Health District (MRHD) Business Office Specialist on one felony count of embezzlement by a public official. Following a plea agreement with the Smyth County Commonwealth's Attorney Office, 61-year old Deborah Rogers of Marion, Virginia, pleaded guilty to a reduction of the charge to a misdemeanor, provided full restitution of \$1,875 to MRHD and received a suspended sentence of 12 months in jail.

A scheduled audit by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) discovered funds missing from the Environmental Health Unit totaling \$1,875. During the audit, Rogers' supervisor asked Rogers to provide a cash receipt for a \$725 well/septic fee that she was unable to produce. This prompted a review of past transactions conducted by Rogers. VDH discovered three more transactions where Rogers received fees from clients that she did not deposit into the Environmental Health Unit account. After the completion of the audit and an investigation by OSIG and VSP, MRHD terminated Rogers' employment.

"OSIG values the working relationship it has with the Virginia State Police and other state agencies in investigating complaints of fraud, waste and abuse," said State Inspector General Michael C. Westfall. "OSIG works to promote integrity and ethical conduct in the Commonwealth and preserve the public's trust."

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Established in 2012, the Virginia Office of the State Inspector General manages the State Fraud, Waste and Abuse Hotline; conducts investigations and performance audits of state agencies; provides training and standards for the commonwealth's internal audit programs; and conducts inspections and reviews of Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services-run facilities and programs.