

# Department of Justice

United States Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr.  
Western District of New York

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## **WOMAN SENTENCED TO HALFWAY HOUSE** **AS A RESULT OF CHECK FORGERY**

BUFFALO, N.Y.-- U.S. Attorney William J. Hochul, Jr. announced today that Deborah Dutton, 55, of Batavia, New York, who was convicted of check forgery, was sentenced by Chief U.S. District Judge William M. Skretny to five months in a halfway house and five months home confinement. She was also ordered to pay over \$85,000 in restitution to her former employer.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gretchen L. Wylegala, who handled the case, stated that the defendant embezzled over \$85,000 from her employer between 2007 and May 2010, by issuing checks to herself on the business account. Dutton used a forged signature she created electronically on the checks. During sentencing it was noted that this was not the defendant's first offense - she had an earlier theft conviction in 1984. Dutton's attorney noted in court that she sold a collection of dolls to begin the restitution process and is in the process of putting her home up for sale towards satisfaction of the restitution order.

This law enforcement action is part of President Barack Obama's Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. President Obama established the interagency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force to wage an aggressive, coordinated and proactive effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. The task force includes representatives from a broad range of federal agencies, regulatory authorities, inspectors general, and state and local law enforcement who, working together, bring to bear a powerful array of criminal and civil enforcement resources. The task force is working to improve efforts across the federal executive branch, and with state and local partners, to investigate and prosecute significant financial crimes, ensure just and effective punishment for those who perpetrate financial crimes, combat discrimination in the lending and financial markets, and recover proceeds for victims of financial crimes.

The sentencing is the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Secret Service , under the direction of Special Agent in Charge, Tracy Gast .

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