

By James V. Franco
The Record

ALBANY - A state Department of Health employee stands charged with grand larceny after an investigation revealed she allegedly used a state issued credit card for personal expenses and for a visit to Turning Stone Casino.

Starting last year, the office of state Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli said 40-year-old Kristina Stuto, of Albany, a secretary in the DOH Bureau of Administrative Services, used the credit card to pay for \$7,900 worth of gambling junkets and shopping sprees for herself and her family.

"State-issued credit cards are supposed to help agencies manage finances better, not pay for employees to go off on taxpayer-funded gambling junkets and shopping sprees," DiNapoli said. "This kind of abuse is intolerable."

Stuto was arraigned today in Albany City Court and charged with grand larceny in the third degree. The case is being prosecuted by Albany County District Attorney David Soares' Office. She was released on \$1,000 bail.

DiNapoli is encouraging the public to help fight against fraud and abuse. New Yorkers can report allegations of fraud, corruption and abuse of taxpayer money by: calling the toll-free fraud hotline at 1-888-672-4555 filing a complaint online at investigations@osc.state.ny.us, or mailing a complaint to: Office of the State Comptroller Investigations Unit, 110 State Street, 14th floor, Albany, NY 12236.

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