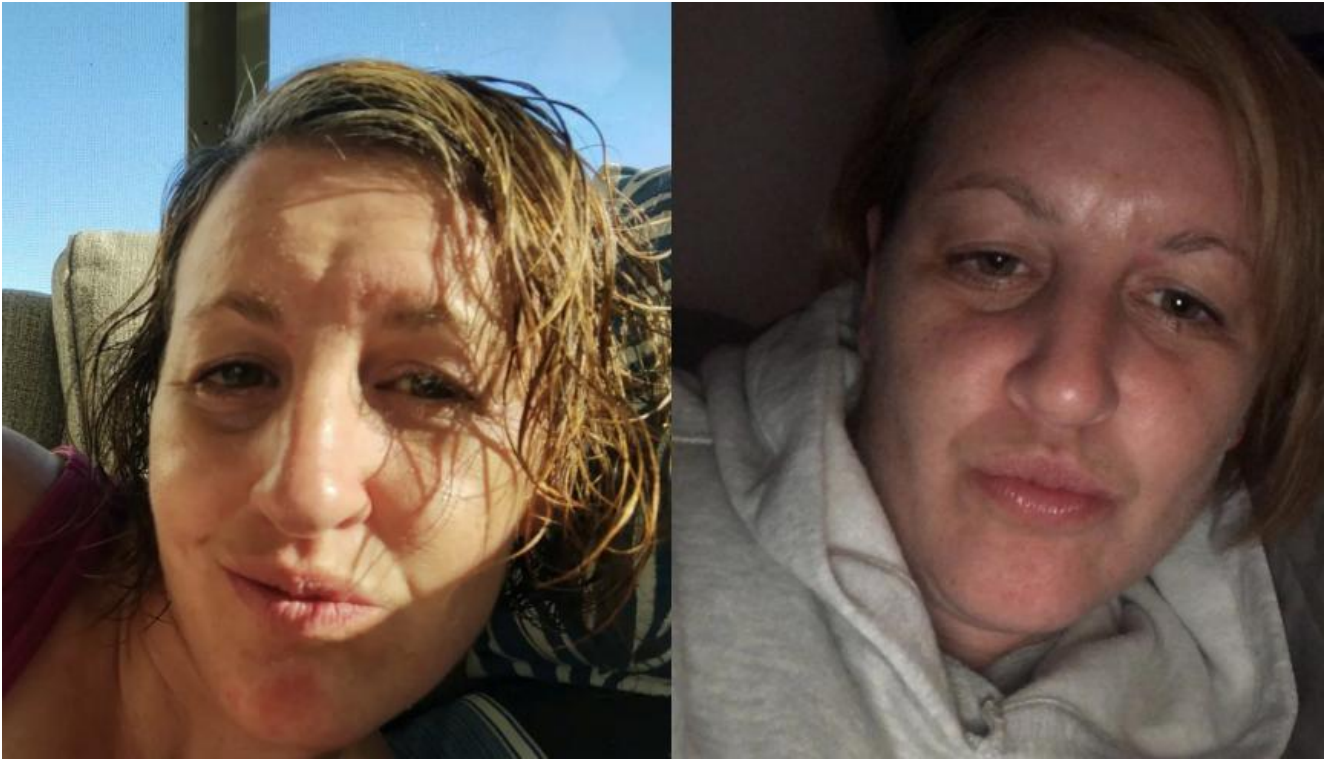


# **Massachusetts woman sentenced for hoax bomb threat against Boston Children's Hospital**

"BOSTON – A Westfield woman was sentenced on July 18, 2024 in federal court in Boston for calling in a hoax bomb threat against Boston Children's Hospital.

Catherine Leavy, 37, was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin to three years' probation. In September 2024, Leavy pleaded guilty to one count of making a false bomb threat and one count of intentionally conveying false or misleading information that a bomb was on the way to Boston Children's Hospital.

In August 2022, law enforcement began monitoring threats made against Boston Children's Hospital and its employees. Among the wide range of healthcare services it provides, Boston Children's Hospital is home to the Gender Multispecialty Service (GeMS) program – a healthcare program focused on gender-diverse and transgender adolescents.



On Aug. 30, 2022, Boston Children's Hospital received a telephonic bomb threat in which the caller said, "There is a bomb on the way to the hospital, you better evacuate everybody you sickos." As a result of the call, the hospital and surrounding area was placed on lockdown status and a bomb squad was dispatched. An investigation determined that there were no explosive devices located at the hospital. Subscriber and call detail records and location information for the phone number that called in the threat determined that the phone number was subscribed in Leavy's name. In addition, cell tower data indicated the phone was nearby Leavy's residence at the time the bomb threat was made.

During a search of Leavy's residence on Sept. 15, 2022, the phone used to make the threat was recovered. According to court records, in an on-scene interview with law enforcement, Leavy expressed disapproval of Boston Children's Hospital on multiple occasions. Leavy also admitted that she called in the threat to Boston Children's Hospital on Aug. 30, 2022, but stated that she had no plan or intention to actually bomb the hospital.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy; Jodi Cohen,

Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division; and Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox made the announcement. Valuable assistance was provided by the Westfield Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jared C. Dolan, Deputy Chief of the National Security Unit, prosecuted the case. “-Massachusetts Department of Justice.