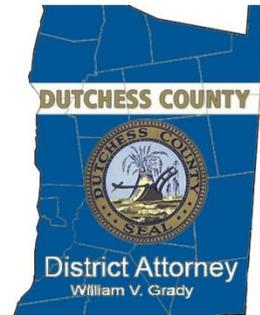




Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 19, 2015
Contact: Diane Ward, Office of Communications
(518) 549-0200
diane.ward@justicecenter.ny.gov

Poughkeepsie Mental Health Aide Sentenced for Sex Crime *Case Prosecuted by the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office and the NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs*

Poughkeepsie, NY-- Dutchess County District Attorney William V. Grady and NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning announced today that a former employee of a Poughkeepsie community residence who had sexual contact with an adult resident, was sentenced on his guilty plea. The facility is operated by the NYS Office of Mental Health's Rockland Psychiatric Center.

Troy Elting (DOB: 5/26/63), of Poughkeepsie was sentenced to 10-years probation. The defendant will also be required to register as a sex offender. In November 2014, Elting appeared in Dutchess County Court before the Hon. Peter. M Forman and pled guilty to:

- One count of Criminal Sexual Act in the third degree, a class "E" Felony.

Elting admitted he engaged in a sexual act with the victim at an off-site location. Under the law, an individual receiving treatment in a residential facility operated by the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH) is incapable of giving consent. The incident was reported to the Justice Center's Vulnerable Persons Central Register (VPCR) Hotline. The arrest was the result of an investigation conducted by City of Poughkeepsie Police, with assistance from Justice Center investigators. The case was jointly prosecuted by Dutchess County Assistant District Attorney Kristine Whelan and Justice Center Assistant Special Prosecutor Deidre Chuckrow.

"I want to thank District Attorney Grady and his staff for the successful prosecution of this case," said Special Prosecutor Gunning. "This investigation and prosecution should serve as a warning to those who prey on vulnerable individuals that the Justice Center and local District Attorneys will vigorously prosecute these cases to ensure that persons who violate their positions of trust will be brought to justice."

The Justice Center and its statewide hotline and incident reporting system began operations on June 30, 2013. It is staffed 24-hours a day, seven days a week by trained professionals who

receive reports of allegations of abuse and neglect of people with special needs. Once a report is received by its Vulnerable Persons Central Register (VPCR) Hotline, it is logged and assessed. Serious cases of abuse or neglect are assigned to the Justice Center's investigation team or, when appropriate, to a local law enforcement agency for follow-up.

The Justice Center also maintains a statewide registry of all persons who have been found to be responsible for serious or repeated acts of abuse and neglect. Once placed on the registry, known as the "Staff Exclusion List" or SEL, they are prohibited by law from ever working again with people with disabilities or special needs.

The Office of Mental Health (OMH) is one of six state agencies under the jurisdiction of the Justice Center. The Justice Center also oversees certain facilities or programs that are operated, licensed or certified by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) the Department of Health (DOH), the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), and the State Education Department (SED).

###