



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 20, 2013

Contact: Diane Ward, Office of Communications

(518) 549-0200

diane.ward@justicecenter.ny.gov

United Cerebral Palsy Employee Arraigned on Sex Abuse Charges

Incident Reported to NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Hotline

Brooklyn, NY-- NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning announced today that Irwin October (DOB: 4/03/81) was arraigned in Kings County Supreme Court on a three count indictment charging him with having sexual contact with a person in his care at a United Cerebral Palsy of New York City (UCP of NYC) day habilitation program. UCP of NYC is licensed by the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities.

The incident first came to the attention of law enforcement officials when multiple employees reported the allegation to the Justice Center's Vulnerable Persons Central Register (VPCR) Hotline and the New York City Police Department. A call center representative opened a case tracking file. Justice Center investigators assisted NYPD with the investigation.

The indictment charges October, who lives at 25 Lefferts Avenue, Brooklyn with:

- one count of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the first degree, a class "E" Felony;
- one count of Sex Abuse in the Second Degree, a class "A" Misdemeanor; and
- one count of Sex Abuse in the Third Degree, a class "B" Misdemeanor.

According to the indictment, the defendant subjected the victim to multiple acts of sexual contact. October was released on his own recognizance and is due back in court on January 14, 2014. He has been placed on administrative leave. The Kings County District Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

-Continued on page 2

Page 2 –United Cerebral Employee Arraigned on Sex Abuse Charges

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 (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 for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) is one of six state agencies under the jurisdiction of the Justice Center. It also oversees certain facilities or programs that are operated, licensed or certified by the Office of Mental Health (OMH), 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).

###

Editor’s note: In compliance with Disciplinary Rule 7-107A of the Code of Professional Responsibility, you are advised that a charge is an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.