



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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Brooklyn Caregiver Arrested for Neglecting Elderly Man *Case Investigated and Prosecuted by the Justice Center*

Brooklyn, NY-- NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning today announced that Lena Saturn (DOB 04/02/46) of Brooklyn was arraigned in Kings County Supreme Court on an 3-count indictment charging her with neglecting a 76-year-old man with dementia who was being cared for in her residence. Family-Type Homes for Adults are private homes certified by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) for people who are unable to live on their own because of advanced age or a physical or developmental disability.

"The residents in these homes deserve to be treated with dignity and respect," said Special Prosecutor Gunning. "The Justice Center and the District Attorneys in this state will vigorously prosecute cases of neglect like this one involving a paid home caregiver whose lapse resulted in harm to a person with special needs."

The indictment charges Saturn with:

- One count of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the first degree, a class "E" felony;
- Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the second degree, a class "A" misdemeanor; and
- One count of Reckless Endangerment in the second degree, a class "A" Misdemeanor.

The charges stem from injuries that were discovered when the victim was admitted to Mount Sinai Beth Israel Hospital. He was treated for multiple lacerations to his scalp which required staples, a fractured nose, scabies and other health issues. The defendant claimed the man's injuries were self-inflicted. The victim was unable to articulate what had happened to him. In consultation with multiple physicians, Justice Center investigators determined the injuries were the result of neglect that happened over a period of time. The defendant also refused additional medical help for the victim.

Saturn was released on her own recognizance and is due back in court on July 8, 2015. Another resident being cared for at the home has been relocated. The case is being prosecuted by Justice Center Assistant Special Prosecutor David Kim.

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 Children and Family Services 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 Office of Mental Health (OMH), the Department of Health (DOH), the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) and the State Education Department (SED).

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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.