



# Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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## **Brooklyn Caregiver Pleads Guilty and Sentenced for Neglecting Man with Disability**

*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 pled guilty to one count of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the Second Degree, a class "A" misdemeanor in Kings County Supreme Court.

Saturn cared for a 76-year-old man with dementia in her home which was certified by the state as a residence for people who are unable to live on their own because of advanced age or a physical or developmental disability. An investigation conducted by the Justice Center revealed that the defendant neglected the needs of the victim who was admitted to Mount Sinai Beth Israel Hospital for treatment of a fractured nose, multiple lacerations to his scalp and other health issues.

"I would like to extend my appreciation to the vigilant staff at Mount Sinai Beth Israel Hospital and the New York City Elder Abuse Center for their assistance in this case," said Gunning. "As a result, we were able to hold this defendant accountable and ensure the victim will receive the quality care he deserves."

Saturn was sentenced to a conditional discharge and waived her right to an administrative appeal which may result in her being placed on a statewide register which prohibits individuals found responsible for serious or repeated acts of abuse or neglect from ever working again with individuals with special needs in the state. An order of protection was also issued.

The case was 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 private home where the victim in this case was housed was certified by the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), 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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