



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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Bronxville Group Home Employees Plead Guilty

Case Investigated and Prosecuted by the Justice Center

White Plains, NY-- NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning today announced two women employed by a state-operated group home for people with developmental disabilities in Bronxville pleaded guilty in Westchester County Supreme Court for their roles in the abuse and cover-up of an incident in which a person in their care was injured.

"Abuse or neglect of people with special needs will not be tolerated," said Special Prosecutor Gunning. "The Justice Center and the District Attorneys of this state will hold accountable those responsible for mistreating people receiving services."

Monsurat Dindi (DOB: 09/18/60) of the Bronx, pled guilty to:

- One count of Endangering the Welfare of a Vulnerable Elderly Person, or an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the second degree, a class "E" Felony; and
- One count of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the second degree, a class "A" Misdemeanor.

Maxine Smith (DOB: 09/07/70) of the Bronx, pled guilty to:

- One count of Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the second degree, a class "A" Misdemeanor

As conditions of their pleas, both Dindi and Smith agreed to resign their state positions and be barred for life from working with vulnerable persons in New York State. The third co-defendant, Kimm Thompson of Albany is scheduled for conference on May 12, 2015. When sentenced on July 7, 2015, Dindi will be placed on five years of probation and Smith will receive three years of probation.

Dindi admitted in court that she and co-defendant Kimm Thompson were responsible for injuring the victim by repeatedly closing a van wheelchair lift onto the service recipient's foot as the victim cried out in pain. Due to the defendant's inaction, the victim failed to receive medical treatment for several hours for injuries to her toe and foot. Dindi and Smith also stated under oath that they conspired together, and with co-defendant Thompson to include false information about the incident in their reports.

The case was investigated by the Justice Center and is being prosecuted by Justice Center Deputy Special Prosecutor Jacqueline Kagan and Assistant Special Prosecutor Christopher Mirabella.

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 group home is operated by the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD). OPWDD 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 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).

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