

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 8, 2013

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Orange County AHRC Employees Charged With Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent Person
Justice Center to Prosecute the Case

Wallkill, NY-- NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning today announced the arraignment of two employees of the Orange County AHRC Day Habilitation Program on felony charges for allegedly abusing an individual with developmental disabilities in their care. The arrests were made following an investigation conducted by the Justice Center, with assistance from the Wallkill Police Department. The facility is licensed by the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

The incident first came to the attention of law enforcement officials when it was reported to the Justice Center's Vulnerable Persons Central Register (VPCR) Hotline. A call center representative opened a case tracking file and an investigation was launched.

"I would like to extend my appreciation to the Wallkill Police Department for their key assistance during this investigation," said Gunning. "Thanks to the coordination and cooperation of this agency, justice will be served for the victim of this crime."

Christopher J. Salvagin (DOB: 8/23/86) of 109 Lake Avenue, Middletown and James D. Jaycox, Jr. (DOB: 12/23/73) of 505 Overlook Drive, Middletown were arraigned on November 7, 2013 in Wallkill Town Court on Felony Complaints charging each 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 Endangering the Welfare of a Vulnerable Elderly Person or an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the Second Degree, a Class "E" Felony;
- One count of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the Second Degree, a Class "A" Misdemeanor; and
- One count of Assault in the Third Degree, a class "A" Misdemeanor.

According to the complaints, neither defendant reported or sought medical treatment for the victim who was in obvious pain after he either fell or was pushed in a bathroom. The victim suffered two fractured ribs. Salvagin and Jaycox were released under the supervision of probation. Both defendants have been suspended without pay. The case is being prosecuted by Justice Center Assistant Special Prosecutor Christina Calabrese.

-Continued on page 2-

Page 2 – Orange County AHRC Employees Charged With Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent Person

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).

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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.