



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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Queens Caregiver Arraigned on Charges of Abuse *Case Investigated and Prosecuted by the Justice Center*

Queens, NY-- NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning today announced that Marlon Bryan (DOB 06/11/69) who is employed by Maranatha Human Services was arraigned in Queens County Supreme Court on a 6-count indictment charging him with repeatedly striking a man with developmental disabilities in the head and neck with his hand and a belt.

“The victim in this case has the mental capacity of a very young child, is non-verbal and requires assistance with all activities associated with daily living, which makes this alleged attack particularly egregious,” said Special Prosecutor Gunning. “We do not condone child abuse and we certainly will not ignore the behavior of a paid caregiver who would beat an adult who is utterly incapable of comprehending why he is being subjected to such harm. We will pursue this case to be sure the person charged is held fully accountable for his actions.”

The indictment charges Bryan 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 an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the Second Degree, a class “A” misdemeanor;
- One count of Attempted Assault in the Second Degree, a class “E” felony;
- One count of Attempted Assault in the Third Degree, a class “B” misdemeanor;
- One count of Menacing in the Second Degree, a class “A” misdemeanor; and
- One count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the fourth degree, a class “A” misdemeanor.

The arrest was the result of a joint investigation conducted by the New York City Police Department and the Justice Center. Bryan, a resident of Brooklyn has resigned his position. The defendant pled not guilty to the charges and bail was set at \$1500. The defendant was arraigned by Justice Center Deputy Special Prosecutor Jacqueline Kagan and will be 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.

Through the services provided by the Justice Center's Individual and Family Support Unit--victims, their families, personal representatives and guardians receive guidance and information about the reporting and investigation process and support during criminal cases and court proceedings

Maranatha Human Services, Inc. is certified 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 Children and Family Services (OCFS), 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.