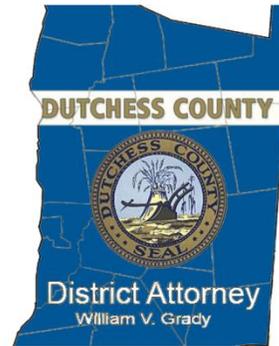




News Release



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Poughkeepsie Mental Health Aide Charged with Rape

Incident Reported to NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Hotline

Poughkeepsie, NY-- Dutchess County District Attorney William V. Grady and NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning announced today the arrest of a mental health aide for allegedly having sexual contact with an adult patient in his care at a community residence in Poughkeepsie. The facility is operated by the Rockland Psychiatric Center.

Troy Elting (DOB: 5/26/63), a resident of Poughkeepsie was arrested on a Felony Complaint charging him with:

- One count of Rape in the third degree, a class "E" Felony; and
- One count of Criminal Sexual Act in the third degree, a class "E" Felony.

Elting has been suspended from his position.

The incident, which allegedly occurred off-site, 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. City of Poughkeepsie Police, with assistance from Justice Center investigators launched an investigation. The case is being prosecuted jointly by the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office and the Justice Center.

"We commend the District Attorney and the Poughkeepsie Police Department for their work on this case involving a vulnerable person," said Gunning. "Through this joint prosecution effort, we intend to seek justice for the victim of this crime."

Elting was arraigned in Poughkeepsie City Court. The defendant was released under the supervision of the Probation Department. He was placed on Electronic Monitoring to protect the victim from having to undergo the trauma of testifying at this early stage of the prosecution.

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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 Mental Health (OMH) operates the Rockland Psychiatric Center. OMH 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 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.