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St. Colman's Home Childcare Worker Admits Endangering Youth with Disabilities in Plea Deal with Justice Center

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

Colonie, NY-- NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning today announced that Eric Cargile (DOB: 01/01/86), a child care worker employed by St. Colman's Home pleaded guilty in Colonie Town Court to two misdemeanor charges stemming from an incident in which a child with developmental disabilities was injured while under his care.

As part of the agreement, Cargile pleaded guilty to:

- One count of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the 2nd degree, a Class A misdemeanor; and
- One Count of Falsifying a business record in the 2nd degree, also a Class A misdemeanor.

Cargile was sentenced to 3-years probation. He also agreed to resign his position and be permanently barred from working with individuals with special needs in New York State.

"I want to thank Colonie Police for working with the Justice Center throughout the investigation and prosecution of this case," said Gunning. "This plea holds this defendant accountable for his actions and ensures that he will no longer work with vulnerable New Yorkers."

The incident occurred last January when the child under Cargile's care suffered bumps, bruises and scratches while the two were alone in the child's room. Cargile also admitted he failed to enter the incident in a logbook, as required by St. Colman's procedures.

The incident first came to the attention of law enforcement officials when it was reported by St. Coleman's Home staff to the Justice Center's Vulnerable Persons Central Register (VPCR) Hotline. A call center representative opened a case tracking file and notified Colonie Police who launched an investigation with assistance from Justice Center criminal investigators. St. Colman's Home is certified by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

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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 NYS Office of Children and Family Services is one of six state agencies which have programs 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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Eric Cargile

