



## Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 8, 2015  
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### **Bronxville Group Home Employees Sentenced for Endangering Resident** *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 employees of a Bronxville group home for people with developmental disabilities were sentenced on July 7, 2015 on charges in connection with the abuse of a service recipient in their care.

“The Justice Center will continue to advocate for all vulnerable New Yorkers, like the victim in this case,” said Special Prosecutor Gunning. “With these dispositions, the family of the victim can take solace that their loved one received some measure of justice and as a result of the Justice Center’s investigation and prosecution these individuals are no longer employed by the State of New York and have been barred for life from working with vulnerable persons in this state.”

In April 2015, Monsurat Dindi (DOB: 09/18/60) of the Bronx pled guilty to Endangering the Welfare of a Vulnerable Elderly Person, or an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the second degree, a Class E felony and Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the second degree, a Class A misdemeanor. Dindi was sentenced to five years probation. Co-defendant Maxine Smith (DOB: 09/07/70) of the Bronx pled guilty to Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the second degree, a Class A misdemeanor. She was placed on three years probation.

A third defendant, Kimm Thompson of Albany is scheduled for a conference before the Hon. Barry Warhit on July 23, 2015.

The Justice Center’s investigation found that on October 9, 2014, defendants Dindi and Thompson repeatedly closed a van wheelchair lift on the service recipient’s foot as the victim cried out in pain and failed to properly document the incident. Due to the defendants’ inaction, the victim went without treatment for her injuries for several hours. She died 10 weeks later of an unrelated cause.

During sentencing, a family member delivered an emotional victim’s impact statement in which she recounted how her deceased sister had loved to call out family member’s names, but never opened her eyes, spoke or interacted with them again following the assault. She also noted how important it was for her family to know that the defendants will never again be in a position to harm anyone’s loved one.

The case was investigated by the Justice Center and 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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