



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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Justice Center Special Prosecutor Charges Erie County Nurse with Rape and Sexual Abuse *Case Investigated and Prosecuted by the Justice Center*

Buffalo, NY – NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning announced the arrest of an Erie County man on charges he raped and sexually abused an individual in his care.

Jordan Donalson of Clarence Center (DOB 12/11/92) was charged with:

- One count of Rape in the Third Degree, a class “E” felony;
- Two counts of a Criminal Sex Act in the Third Degree, a class “E” felony;
- Two counts of Sexual Abuse in the Second degree, a class “A” misdemeanor; and
- One count of Forcible Touching, a class “A” misdemeanor.

Donalson, a Licensed Practical Nurse at Erie County Medical Center (ECMC) in Buffalo was arraigned before the Honorable Penny M. Wolfgang of state Supreme Court in Erie County. Bail was set at \$10,000. The defendant will be scheduled to return to court on a later date. The prosecution will be handled by Assistant Special Prosecutor Mary-Jean Bowman. The case was investigated by the Justice Center with the assistance of the Buffalo Police Department. Donalson was placed on administrative leave by ECMC during the course of this investigation.

Donalson is accused of having intercourse with and committing sexual abuse against a female patient at ECMC. Sex crimes under the penal law include sexual contact of any kind between an employee and a patient when the employee has reason to know their patient is placed at a facility licensed or certified by the NYS Office of Substance Abuse Services (OASAS).

“The patient in this case was receiving necessary care at ECMC, and as such is legally incapable of consenting to sexual conduct with this defendant.” said Special Prosecutor Gunning, “For a licensed professional to abuse their position of authority for sexual gratification, as the defendant in this case is alleged to have done, is reprehensible.”

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.

ECMC is licensed by OASAS. OASAS 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), Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) 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.



Jordan Donalson DOB: 12/11/92