



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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SCO Family of Services Employee Pleads Guilty to Endangering Service Recipient Left Alone in Car While Caregiver Visits Inmate

Hempstead, NY-- NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning today announced the conviction of a former employee of SCO Family of Services who admitted she left a person with an intellectual disability in her care alone in a car to visit an inmate at the Nassau County Correctional Facility and later purchased and smoked marijuana in the car while the victim remained in the backseat.

Angelique Broadus (DOB: 08/03/93), of Wheatley Heights, New York pled guilty in Nassau County District Court to Endangering the Welfare of a Physically Disabled or Incompetent Person in the second degree, a Class A Misdemeanor. She was prosecuted concurrently and pled guilty to a similar offense in Suffolk County. She was ordered to comply with Suffolk County probation, resign her position, abide by an order of protection for the victim, and waived her right to appeal any Justice Center administrative findings that may place her on a central register that contains the names of people who are prohibited from providing care to people with special needs in New York. If the defendant complies, she will be allowed to withdraw her plea and will receive a conditional discharge on a violation. All other terms of her plea will remain. The case was prosecuted by Justice Center Assistant Special Prosecutor David Kim.

“The victim in this case was unable to care for herself and requires constant supervision,” said Special Prosecutor Gunning. “Leaving her alone in a vehicle -- even briefly -- placed her at risk of serious harm. Fortunately, the service recipient suffered no adverse effect, but the case should serve as a reminder of the dangers of leaving people with disabilities or special needs unattended in a vehicle.”

A new resource developed by the Justice Center highlights common sense practices to help keep people receiving services safe. This *Spotlight on Prevention* toolkit includes a video gallery on heatstroke dangers, a vehicle hang tag and safety tips that can be used by drivers, transport aides, provider agency personnel and the public to prevent an accidental tragedy from occurring.

For more information on the toolkit and the Justice Center’s prevention initiatives, please visit the Justice Center’s website at: <http://www.justicecenter.ny.gov/spotlight-prevention/home>

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.

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

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.

SCO Family of Services is licensed by the NYS 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).