



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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Contact [Bill Reynolds](#) (518) 414-1299

An arrest photo is available at the bottom of the release.

Therapist Charged with Abusing Elderly Person with Disabilities in His Care *Case investigated and prosecuted by the Justice Center*

Brooklyn, NY – NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning announced a Brooklyn man, employed by the Federation of Multicultural Programs (FMP) in Brooklyn, was arrested and arraigned in Kings County Criminal Court on charges he abused an elderly person with disabilities in his care.

“The defendant in this case was responsible for providing care to an elderly person with disabilities who is unable to live independently or speak up if they are mistreated,” said Special Prosecutor Gunning. “In this case a concerned clinic worker who observed the event spoke up and made the call after witnessing the incident. We are grateful to this person as without this call, we would never have been able to hold this defendant accountable.”

The complaint charges Anthony Lovell (DOB: 03/01/71) of Brooklyn with:

- One count of Attempted Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the First Degree, a class “A” misdemeanor;
- One count of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the Second Degree, a class “A” misdemeanor; and
- One count of Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation.

The charges stem from a June 2016 incident in which the defendant was escorting the victim to a clinic for an appointment. While at the clinic, the defendant allegedly struck the victim in the face.

Lovell, a Resident Therapist at FMP, was arraigned before the Honorable Carolyn Walker-Diallo of Kings County Criminal Court and released on his own recognizance. Lovell was placed on administrative leave. The case is being prosecuted by Justice Center Supervising Assistant Special Prosecutor David Kim.

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.

FMP is licensed 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, the Office of Mental Health (OMH), the Department of Health (DOH), the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), 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.



Anthony Lovell