



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

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### **Brooklyn Aide Arraigned on Felony Charges for Striking Woman with Developmental Disabilities in Head with Metal Chair**

*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 today announced that a woman employed by the Paul K. Cooper Center for Human Services, Inc. was arrested and arraigned on charges that she struck a woman with developmental disabilities in the head with a metal chair. The facility is licensed by the NYS Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

“Threatening, striking or using any kind of weapon against a vulnerable person is inexcusable,” said Special Prosecutor Gunning. “Defendants, such as this one, who menace service recipients with objects that can harm will be investigated, prosecuted and held accountable.”

Jacqueline Trevino (DOB: 10/02/63) of Brooklyn was arraigned in Kings County Supreme Court before the Honorable Joy Campanelli on a criminal complaint charging her with:

- 1 count of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the First Degree, a class “E” felony;
- 1 count of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the Second Degree, a class “A” misdemeanor;
- 1 count of Attempted Assault in the Second Degree, a class “E” felony;
- 1 count of Attempted Assault in the Third Degree, a class “B” misdemeanor;
- 1 count of Menacing in the Second Degree, a class “A” misdemeanor;
- 1 count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree, a class “A” misdemeanor; and
- 1 count of Harassment in the Second Degree, a violation.

An investigation conducted by the Justice Center revealed that the defendant struck the victim from behind, multiple times in the head with a metal chair. Trevino pled not guilty to the charges and was released on her own recognizance. The defendant’s next court date is June 16, 2016. Trevino has been terminated from her position. Justice Center Assistant Special Prosecutor David Kim is prosecuting the case.

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.

The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (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 Children and Family Services (OCFS), 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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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.

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**Jacqueline Trevino (DOB: 10/02/63)**