



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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Oswego Hospital Employee Indicted on Sexual Abuse Charges *Case Investigated and Prosecuted by the Justice Center*

Oswego, NY – NYS Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs Special Prosecutor Patricia E. Gunning announced the indictment of an Oswego man, accused of committing criminal sexual acts and sexual abuse against an individual in his care.

Brandon Walker of Oswego (DOB 04/11/94) has been charged with:

- Two counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, a class "E" felony; and
- Three counts of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, a class "A" misdemeanor.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred in October 2015 at Oswego Hospital, which operates a program licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health (OMH). The defendant, a therapy aide, allegedly escorted the victim, who was an inpatient receiving treatment, to a private area of the hospital where he engaged in sexual acts with the victim.

“Sexual involvement between staff and a person receiving treatment is not only unethical it is illegal,” said Special Prosecutor Gunning. “Workers, like this defendant, who prey on vulnerable individuals entrusted to their care, should be on notice that the Justice Center will prosecute these cases to the fullest extent of the law.”

Walker, who was terminated by Oswego Hospital when the abuse was discovered, was arraigned in Oswego Supreme Court. Bail was set at \$20,000 bond or \$10,000 cash. Walker has since posted bail, with a return date to be announced by the court. The Justice Center led the investigation with the assistance of the Oswego Police Department and the Oswego County Sheriff’s Department. The case is being prosecuted by Justice Center Assistant Special Prosecutor Deandra Macomber.

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.

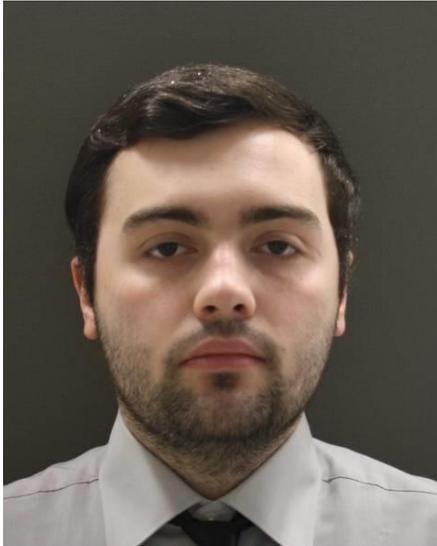
The Justice Center also maintains a statewide registry of all persons who have been found to be responsible for serious or repeated acts of abuse and neglect. Once placed on the registry, known as the “Staff Exclusion List” or SEL, they are prohibited by law from ever working again with people with disabilities 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.

OMH 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 Persons With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD), 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.



Brandon Walker