

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

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Inspector General



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Group Home Caretaker Convicted of Assaulting Mentally Disabled Resident

Washington, D.C. - Inspector General Charles C. Maddox and United States Attorney Roscoe C. Howard, Jr. announced today that Defendant Jeremy P. Robinson of Washington, D.C. was convicted in D.C. Superior Court on one count of simple assault. The Honorable Stephen G. Milliken imposed a sentence of 180 days and suspended 135 days. The defendant was ordered to serve one year of supervised probation following his release from incarceration. In addition, Robinson was ordered to undergo anger management classes and vocational counseling. During the period of probation, the Defendant is prohibited from working in the healthcare industry and is prohibited in working with challenged populations.

Robinson, a former worker in a group home for the mentally and physically disabled, was found guilty of aggressively throwing to the floor a mentally and physically disabled resident on January 6, 2001. The assault caused significant bruising and bleeding and required a trip to the emergency room for treatment and stitches.

The case was prosecuted jointly by the OIG's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) and the U.S. Attorney's Office. The MFCU, which was created in March 2000, handled this case as part of an effort called the Guardian Angel Project (GAP). GAP is a comprehensive program designed to deter and, when appropriate, punish health care providers who intentionally abuse or neglect vulnerable patients under their care. Among the institutions covered by GAP are nursing homes, group homes for the mentally retarded, and facilities for the mentally ill. These institutions are a main focus of the MFCU's outreach and education efforts. MFCU investigators and attorneys make presentations to industry and professional groups covering topics such as detecting abuse, prompt and accurate reporting of abuse, and the most effective ways to work with law enforcement agencies. Also, emphasis is placed on outreach and education efforts aimed at senior citizen groups, consumer groups and ombudsmen for the elderly.

The case was jointly prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Alexis Taylor and Assistant United States Attorney Margaret Chriss.