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PRESS RELEASE

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Former care giver of a mentally retarded adult pleads guilty to criminal abuse charge

Washington, D.C. - Reginald Nichols, a former care giver of a mentally retarded adult, has pled guilty to criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult, announced United States Attorney Kenneth L. Wainstein and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby.

Nichols, 47, of the 600 block of Emmanuel Court, NW, Washington, D.C., pled guilty on May 18, 2006, in D.C. Superior Court before the Honorable John Bayly, Jr. The defendant is scheduled to be sentenced on July 18, 2006. He faces up to 180 days in jail.

Nichols was formerly a one-on-one care giver for a 28-year-old mentally retarded man who resided at a group home in Washington, D.C. According to the government's evidence, Nichols assaulted the man in his care while both were on a bus in Northwest Washington, D.C., while in transit to a day treatment program on January 30, 2006.

In announcing the guilty plea, United States Attorney Wainstein and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Patient Abuse Coordinator Jonathan Rich of the OIG Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) for his investigation. They also commended Assistant United States Attorney Keith Becker and Special Assistant United States Attorney Stuart Silverman, an attorney with the MFCU.