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PRESS RELEASE

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Employee of a day treatment program for persons with developmental disabilities sentenced for criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult

Washington, D.C. - Ronald Gene Dickerson, a direct care employee of a District of Columbia day treatment program operator, has been sentenced to 180 days in prison, with all but 90 days suspended, for criminal abuse of a client who attended the program, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

Dickerson, 31, of the 5400 block of Call Place, SE, Washington, D.C., pled guilty on May 29, 2007, before the Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin to criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult. Dickerson was also sentenced to five years of probation, ordered to stay away from the victim and the United Cerebral Palsy of Washington, D.C., to not work with any vulnerable adults, to maintain employment, and to pay \$50 towards the Victims of Violent Crime compensation fund.

According to the government's evidence, on January 11, 2007, the victim attended a day treatment program for developmentally disabled persons operated by United Cerebral Palsy in Northeast Washington, D.C. On that day, the defendant became angry with the victim after he alleged that she spit on him. The defendant's co-workers stated that defendant struck the victim in the face two to three times by propelling his finger in a flicking motion. The defendant was also heard saying, "Bi***, get away from me." Although the defendant was told to stop by a co-worker and another co-worker moved the victim away from defendant, the defendant nevertheless approached the victim again and struck the victim's face twice by flicking his finger.

In announcing the conviction and sentence, U.S. Attorney Taylor and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Investigator Jonathan Rich of the Office of the Inspector General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) for his investigation of the criminal abuse. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean P. Tonolli and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Dangkhua Nguyen of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case.

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