



U.S. Department of Justice

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**Former employee of a day treatment program for persons with developmental disabilities sentenced for criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult**

**Washington, D.C.** - Latanya M. Wilson, a former employee of a District of Columbia day treatment program for persons with developmental disabilities, has been sentenced 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.

Wilson, 33, of Suitland, Maryland, pled guilty on June 19, 2007, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable John J. Mott to criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult. On August 23, 2007, Judge Mott sentenced Wilson to 180 days in prison, with all but 4 days suspended, and one year of probation. Wilson also was ordered to stay away from the victim, to seek vocational training, and to obtain and maintain employment. In addition, she was prohibited from working with any vulnerable population, including children, elderly and mentally challenged persons and must pay \$50 towards the Victims of Violent Crime compensation fund.

According to the government's evidence, on February 8, 2006, the victim attended a day treatment program for developmentally disabled persons formerly operated by Community Alternatives of Washington, D.C. On that day, two co-workers observed the defendant become angry with the victim after he drank from a soda can while in Wilson's class room. The co-workers then saw the defendant punch the victim in the face. The victim sustained a black eye and fractured facial bone near his eye as a result of Wilson's actions.

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. Attorneys Emily Miller and John Borchert, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Dangkhwa Nguyen of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case.

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