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Employee of a group home sentenced **for criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult**

Washington, D.C. - A caregiver in a group home for developmentally disabled adults has been found guilty and sentenced for abuse of a vulnerable adult in 2006, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and the District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

On July 26, 2007, Gigi L. Carter, 49, of the 1100 block of 21st Place, NE, Washington, D.C., was found guilty of one count of criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult following a bench trial in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin. Carter, a caregiver in a group home operated by RCM of Washington, Inc., was sentenced on August 3, 2007, to 180 days in prison, with all but 15 days suspended, for criminal abuse of vulnerable adult residing at the group home. The defendant was also sentenced to one year of probation, ordered not to have contact with vulnerable adults, and required to undergo drug testing. Judge Mitchell-Rankin imposed orders for Carter to stay away from the facility, the vulnerable adult and government witnesses.

According to the government's evidence, on July 21, 2006, the victim and the defendant returned to the group home from a day program for developmentally disabled persons. While in the group home, the defendant repeatedly called the vulnerable adult a derogatory name, which led to further escalation and an angry exchange of words between the vulnerable adult and the defendant.

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 Todd Gee and Sean Tonolli and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Stuart Silverman of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case.

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