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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Group home counselor convicted and sentenced**  
**for criminal negligence of a group home resident with mental**  
**retardation**

**Washington, D.C.** - A residential counselor, Jermain Lawrence Jackson, of a District of Columbia group home operator has been sentenced to 180 days in prison, with all but fifteen days suspended, for criminal negligence of a group home resident in his care, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

Jackson, 35, of Washington, D.C., was convicted and sentenced in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia on Thursday, February 1, 2007, following a non-jury trial before the Honorable Zinora Mitchell-Rankin. Jackson was also sentenced to four years of probation, ordered to stay away from the victim and all group homes operated by Careco, Inc., to not work with any vulnerable adults and to pay a \$350 fine.

According to the government's evidence at trial, on April 13, 2006, the victim was a resident of a group home for mentally retarded and developmentally disabled persons operated by Careco, Inc. and located in the District. For approximately five months, the defendant was assigned to be the victim's one-on-one residential counselor whose duty was to provide daily care and supervision. On April 13, however, the defendant engaged in a physical struggle with his client at approximately 5:15 p.m., which resulted in bruising and scratches on the client. Despite being aware of these injuries, the defendant failed to report the physical struggle and injuries to his supervisors and co-workers so that the client could receive proper medical care. The following morning, the victim reported that he had been "beat up" by the defendant after another counselor observed the victim's injuries. The defendant did not report or explain the physical struggle until after being contacted by his employer.

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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 negligence. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney April Fearnley and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Dangkhua Nguyen of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case.

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