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PRESS RELEASE

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Former employee of residential provider pleads guilty and is
sentenced for criminal negligence

Washington, D.C. – Archie Smith, a former employee of a care facility for persons with developmental disabilities operated by Individual Development Inc., has been sentenced for criminal negligence, Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

Smith, age 62, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty to criminal negligence and was sentenced on August 11, 2009, in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia before the Honorable Jennifer Anderson. Judge Anderson sentenced defendant Smith to 180 days in prison, with all days suspended, and 18 months of supervised probation. Smith was also ordered to stay away from the victim, the care facility, to refrain from working with any vulnerable population, and to pay \$50 towards the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Fund.

According to facts presented at the plea hearing, on March 25, 2009, the victim lived in a residential facility in Northeast Washington, D.C. operated by Individual Development Inc. On the day of the offense, defendant Smith was caring for the victim, who uses a wheelchair, on an outing at a mall in Maryland. The defendant took the victim in her wheelchair down a short flight of steps, instead of using the nearby elevator. Defendant Smith lost his footing and fell, releasing the wheelchair, and dropping the victim. The defendant failed to discharge his duty of care by not reporting the incident to the residence operator, and by delaying proper assessment and administering care to the victim. This is defendant's first conviction for criminal negligence.

In announcing the conviction and sentence, Acting U.S. Attorney Phillips and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Health Investigator Meghan Strickland of the Office of the Inspector General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) for her investigation of the criminal abuse. Mr. Phillips and Mr. Willoughby also commended the work of Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Lisa Matsumoto and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Jacqueline N. Schesnol of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the case.

