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QUEENS NURSING HOME EMPLOYEE CONVICTED
OF SEXUALLY ABUSING ALZHEIMER PATIENT

Faces Up To 25 Years in Prison In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Corona man formerly employed as a porter at a Flushing nursing home has been convicted after trial of sexually molesting a 64-year-old female patient at the facility. The patient suffers from end-stage Alzheimer's disease.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant stands convicted of committing a particularly heinous crime against one of our most vulnerable citizens. A nursing facility should always be viewed as a patient's home away from home. To force anyone to endure such a traumatic incident – especially one at such a fragile stage in their life – is beyond moral comprehension."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Juan Tavares-Nunez, 55, of 33-41 104th Street in Corona, Queens. Tavares-Nunez was convicted on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, of first-degree criminal sexual act and endangering the welfare of an incompetent person after a one-week jury trial before Queens Supreme Court Justice Robert C. Kohm, who revoked the defendant's \$250,000 bail and ordered him remanded into custody. Sentencing was set for March 5, 2009, at which time Tavares-Nunez faces up to 25 years in prison. He will also be required to register as a sex offender and contribute his DNA to the DNA databank.

District Attorney Brown said that evidence at trial established that Tavares-Nunez, while working as a porter at the Cliffside Nursing Home on the afternoon of July 27, 2007, entered the room of a bedridden Alzheimer patient, who is completely dependent on others for daily activities, and sexually molested her.

The abuse came to light when the defendant's supervisor at the Cliffside Nursing Home, located at 119-19 Graham Court in Flushing, observed the incident and reported the matter. Tavares-Nunez, who worked at the nursing home for approximately nine years, was immediately terminated after the incident.

The investigation was conducted by New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad.

Senior Assistant District Attorney Dianna L. Megias, who is assigned to the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org