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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DAYTOP VILLAGE DRUG TREATMENT COUNSELORS**  
**CHARGED WITH FILING FALSE PROGRESS REPORTS**

*Allegedly Filed Reports With Court Falsely Stating  
That Patient Had Complied With Drug Treatment Plan*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that three clinical counselors at Daytop Village in Far Rockaway, which provides substance abuse treatment to adults and teens, have been charged with insurance fraud, conspiracy and other crimes for allegedly filing false progress reports with the courts on behalf of a patient in exchange for his obtaining for them what they believed to be stolen merchandise.

District Attorney Brown said, “The defendants are accused of using their positions of trust as drug counselors for personal gain. Their alleged actions undermine the entire purpose of Daytop Village’s mission to help individuals end their dependence on drugs and, for many, a revolving door of incarceration. In this case, not only did the defendants allegedly commit criminal acts, they failed the patient by permitting him to avoid treatment for their own personal gain.”

The District Attorney identified the defendants as Kasheen Bolden, 40, of Brooklyn, Claudette Fickling, 60, of Long Island, and Miguel Aviles, 46, of New Jersey. The defendants, who are presently awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court, are variously charged with third-degree insurance fraud, first-degree offering a false instrument for filing, first- and second-degree falsifying business records, third-degree criminal possession of stolen property, fifth-degree conspiracy, fourth-degree criminal facilitation, fifth-degree attempted criminal possession of stolen property and attempted petit larceny. If convicted, the defendants each face up to seven years in prison.

The District Attorney said that the three defendants were employed as clinical counselors at Daytop Village’s Adult Intake and Assessment Unit, located at 316 Beach 65<sup>th</sup> Street in Far Rockaway, Queens. An individual who is sent to Daytop by any Criminal, County, Supreme or District Court in the State of New York initially goes to the Far Rockaway location for assessment and treatment by clinical counselors. Progress reports are then filed with the New York State Unified Court System.

According to the charges, between May 2010 and July 2011, Bolden, Fickling and Aviles provided unauthorized benefits to a patient – such as not having to stay at the facility, attend therapy sessions or take mandatory urine tests – and filed false progress reports with the court on his behalf

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in exchange for his obtaining for them what they believed to be stolen merchandise – such as laundry detergent, tools and computers.

The District Attorney noted that the investigation was continuing.

The investigation is being conducted by Detectives James Monaco and Dominick DiGennaro, of the District Attorney's NYPD Squad, under the supervision of Sergeant Francis Teran, Lieutenant Keith P. Gallagher and Captain John F. Zanfardino and the overall supervision of Chief Louis M. Croce, Jr. and Chief of Detectives Phil T. Pulaski. Douglas L. Knight, Director of the District Attorney's Alternative Sentencing program, is assisting in the investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Marnie B. Lobel, of the District Attorney's Special Proceedings Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Anthony M. Communiello, Bureau Chief and Oscar W. Ruiz, Deputy Bureau Chief, and the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney of the Investigations Division Peter A. Crusco and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Investigations Linda M. Cantoni.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)**