



PRESS RELEASE

AG Frosh: Hagerstown Woman Pleads Guilty to Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult in the Second Degree

Baltimore, MD (December 2, 2016) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that Crystal Sue Gardner-Baker of Hagerstown entered a guilty plea to abuse of a vulnerable adult in the second degree in the Circuit Court for Washington County. The Honorable Daniel P. Dwyer scheduled sentencing for a date in January 2017.

Crystal Sue Gardner-Baker was an employee at The Washington County Human Development Council, a group home in Hagerstown providing both residential and day program services to the developmentally disabled. On June 5, 2015, neighbors of the facility observed and heard Gardener-Baker verbally and physically abusing the victim inside the foyer and kitchen area of the home. The victim was a resident of the facility and is severely intellectually disabled as well as physically disabled. The neighbors also saw Gardener-Baker kicking the victim in the groin region and hitting the victim about the upper body with what they believed was a kitchen utensil. The victim suffered severe contusions to his lower right back region, as well as more severe contusions to his upper rear thighs near the groin area.

In making today's announcement, Attorney General Frosh thanked Assistant Attorneys General Ilene J. Nathan and Amy Donze Sanchez, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit investigator Michael Regan and Deputy First Class Tracey Peyton of the Washington County Sheriff's Office for their work on this case.