



PRESS RELEASE

Baltimore City Woman Pleads Guilty to Neglect of Vulnerable Adult Resulting in Death

BALTIMORE, MD (December 4, 2020) - Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh announced today that Asa Ene Ita, 59, of Baltimore, pleaded guilty to one count of neglect of a vulnerable adult in the first degree and one count of neglect of a vulnerable adult in the second degree. The charges resulted from Ita's failure to provide necessary supervision and essential medical treatment to two vulnerable adults in her care.

Baltimore City Circuit Court Judge Althea M. Handy sentenced Ita to five years in jail, suspending all but two years on count one and a six-month suspended sentence on count two. Judge Handy also sentenced Ita to five years of supervised probation. Ita will serve her sentence on GPS-monitored home detention due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a condition of Ita's probation, she is prohibited from working in any care field with vulnerable adults or children.

Ita is not a licensed health care provider but was operating at least two unlicensed assisted living facilities in Baltimore City. In March 2019, a resident of Ita's unlicensed assisted living facility on N. Luzerne Avenue left the facility and was found deceased two days later. Ita failed to contact the police or the victim's family until more than 12 hours after the victim disappeared. In addition, police found Ita in possession of over 100 mostly full prescription bottles of medication for individuals in her care, indicating that Ita was not administering essential medical treatment.

Attorney General Frosh thanked the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit for obtaining this result, specifically Assistant Attorney General Tracee Orlove Fruman, Investigator John Gipe and Investigator Paul Kidd. Attorney General Frosh also thanked the Baltimore City Police Department and the Maryland State Police for their assistance.