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#### Defendant Pleads Guilty in Beatrice Abuse Case

BEATRICE, Neb. (AP) - A former worker accused of abusing residents at a Nebraska center for developmentally disabled adults has pleaded no contest to abuse charges.

Cameron Barnes of Fairbury entered the plea to two counts of abuse of a vulnerable adult on Thursday in Gage County District Court. In exchange for the plea, seven other charges were dismissed. Barnes also agreed to testify against the four defendants in the case. He faces up to five years in prison on each count. Sentencing is set for Aug. 22.

Barnes and four other workers were charged after an investigation last year at the Beatrice State Developmental Center. They allegedly beat, pushed and choked residents.

Cases are pending against the others - Carmen Yates, Matthew Pangborn, Matthew Johnson and Cody Creek.

Associated Press