

Two More Defendants Convicted in BSDC Abuse Case

Two more people charged in the abuse of residents at the Beatrice State Developmental Center have been convicted in Gage County District Court. Cody Creek and Carmen Yates, both of Beatrice, have accepted plea agreements.

Creek pleaded no contest to a charge of attempted abuse of a vulnerable adult, a misdemeanor. A felony count of strangulation against him will be dismissed. Yates pleaded no contest to attempted abuse of a vulnerable adult. A theft count against her was earlier dismissed.

Gage County Attorney Roger Harris said a co-worker of Creek at B-S-D-C witnessed Creek choke a center resident, identified by the initials "K-H," between June 19th and July 28th of last year. (play audio :17 "some time ago.")

Harris says in the case of Carmen Yates, the investigation determined she was involved in an incident that took place in the back of a state-owned van, June 4th, 2011, involving a BSDC resident identified as "M-A" who she was sitting alongside. (play audio :27 "with the resident.")

Gage County District Judge Paul Korslund ordered pre-sentence investigations in both cases.

Sentencing for Creek and Yates is scheduled for September 5th. As part of the plea agreements, both will testify on behalf of the state in the investigation. They could each receive up to one year in jail.

Four of the five people charged in the investigation have now been convicted. Mathew Pangborn's case is scheduled for trial on July 9th.

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