



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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Former Transportation Company Driver Gets Jail Term For Criminal Abuse of a Vulnerable Adult

WASHINGTON – Jesse Battle, 75, a former employee of On Time Transportation, a transportation company for people with developmental disabilities, has been sentenced to 30 days in jail for criminal abuse of a vulnerable person in his care, United States Attorney Ronald C. Machen, Jr. and District of Columbia Inspector General Charles J. Willoughby announced today.

Battle, of Temple Hills, Md., was found guilty on February 9, 2011, of criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult after a trial before the Honorable Judge Florence Y. Pan in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. On February 14, 2011, she sentenced Battle to 180 days in jail, with all but 30 days suspended, and two years of supervised probation.

Judge Pan also barred Battle from working with vulnerable populations, required him to attend anger management counseling, and ordered him to pay \$50 toward the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Act fund.

According to testimony at trial, on February 4, 2010, Battle was driving an adult with cognitive disabilities from a day treatment program to his home. A witness, who was on the transportation van at the time, testified she saw the victim and driver throw the victim's boot back and forth at each other three to four times. Battle then pulled the van over and punched the victim several times. The victim sustained several bruises to his face and a laceration to the top of his skull requiring three staples.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen and Inspector General Willoughby praised the work of Investigator Victor Richardson and former investigator Meghan Strickland of the Office of the Inspector General Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) for their investigation of the crime. They also commended the work of Assistant U.S. Attorney John Truong, who assisted with the case, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Demian Ahn and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Jacqueline N. Schesnol of the MFCU, who jointly prosecuted the matter.

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