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CARETAKERS AT McGUIRE MEMORIAL, CARE FACILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DISABILITIES, PHOTOGRAPHED AND FILMED PHYSICAL, SEXUAL, AND VERBAL ABUSE OF MULTIPLE RESIDENTS

On Friday, November 22, 2019, the law firms of Robert Peirce & Associates, P.C. and The Law Office of Shaheen Wallace, Esq., LLC will file four lawsuits against McGuire Memorial, Inc., an Intermediate Care Facility for the Intellectually Disabled, located in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, and two caretakers formerly employed by the facility, Zachary Dinell and Tyler Smith. The complaints will be filed on behalf of four residents of McGuire Memorial in the Court of Common Pleas of Beaver County. The victims, who are physically and mentally disabled, were photographed and filmed as they were being physically and emotionally abused by Dinell and Smith. Additionally, Dinell filmed a McGuire Memorial resident who was a minor in a sexually explicit manner.

The complaints will allege that in summer of 2018, during the course of an investigation of Zachary Dinell, a caretaker at McGuire Memorial, authorities from Beaver County discovered over 150 obscene and disturbing photographs of seven McGuire Memorial residents on Dinell's phone. As the investigation continued, in the summer of 2019, investigators discovered that there were an additional ten victims who were also residents of McGuire Memorial. Specifically, investigators uncovered numerous videos of Dinell and another McGuire Memorial caretaker, Tyler Smith, abusing the residents. While the heinous actions of Dinell and Smith occurred between 2017 and 2018, the families of the McGuire Memorial victims did not learn of the abuse until well after it occurred. The complaints will allege that McGuire Memorial knew of the abuse, or should have known of the abuse, yet allowed it to continue unabated.

The four residents who will bring civil lawsuits against Dinell, Smith, and McGuire Memorial are Brian Short, Kasey Ferrence, Nicholas Maravich, and a minor, whose name is being kept confidential. Each complaint will allege that each victim was the victim of repeated abuse. For example, Dinell recorded himself committing various abusive acts, such as kicking one resident in the face; rubbing a foreign substance into a resident's eyes; slapping one resident in the face with a plastic toy; and intentionally causing distress to other victims. Another video shows a resident laying in bed, partially clothed with feces on his chest, face, and hands. Dinell also recorded his co-worker, Smith, jumping on a resident while the resident was laying in bed.

The complaints will bring various counts against McGuire Memorial, Dinell, and Smith. Two of the residents, Nicholas Maravich and Brian Short, have passed away. Their complaints will allege the actions of the Defendants caused or contributed to Nicholas's and Brian's deaths.

In relation to the events at McGuire Memorial, Dinell is charged with multiple criminal counts including, aggravated assault, neglect of care-dependent person, endangering the welfare of children, recklessly endangering another person, invasion of privacy, and sexual abuse of a child. Smith is also charged with simple assault, recklessly endangering another person, and endangering the welfare of a child.

“The repeated abuse to the residents of McGuire Memorial by the caretakers, Zachary Dinell and Tyler Smith, is another tragic instance where families trusted a facility to care for their loved ones and the facility permitted the abuse to continue,” Attorney Rob Peirce stated. “Our firm is dedicated to fighting for and helping victims who are the most susceptible to abuse, including the residents of McGuire Memorial.”

The law firms of Robert Peirce & Associates, P.C. and The Law Office of Shaheen Wallace, Esq., LLC are holding a press conference regarding the civil lawsuits on November 22, 2019 at 11:00 AM at 707 Grant Street, Suite 125, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. If you intend to participate in person, please confirm your attendance with Christine Condon by phone at (412) 281-7229 or by email at ccondon@peircelaw.com. If you intend to participate in the press conference telephonically, prior to the commencement of the press conference, please call into our conference line at 888-240-3210 using the participant code 1731973.