

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley and the New York State Justice Center**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sarah DiLallo and Sandra Abdo Sentenced for the Death of Heather Roselli

Rochester, NY- On Wednesday, November 7, Supreme Court Justice Alex Renzi sentenced 26 year old Sarah DiLallo to 1 to 3 years in the New York State Department of Corrections for Manslaughter in the 2nd Degree and Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent Person in the 1st Degree for the death of Heather Roselli. He also sentenced 61 year old Sandra Abdo to 5 years probation for Criminally Negligent Homicide in relation to the death of Ms. Roselli.

On June 18, 2017, Heather Roselli was a resident of a group home for people with special needs. The home was operated, staffed, and supervised by New York State's Office for Persons with Developmental Disabilities. The victim died from multiple internal injuries and asphyxia following a restraint conducted by employees Sarah DiLallo and Sandra Abdo.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Leslie Schildt of the Child Abuse Bureau and Assistant District Attorney Derek Harnsberger of the Special Investigations Bureau.

"This outcome is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Webster Police Department, the New York State Justice Center, and the Monroe County District Attorney's Office," said Assistant District Attorney Leslie Schildt. "Heather Roselli was an intellectually disabled person who needed the help of the OPWDD for daily life. Her family entrusted the staff at this home with their daughter's life and her care. It is our hope that this sentencing brings some degree of closure to the family and helps them begin to heal."

"Heather Roselli was a person with special needs. More importantly though, Heather was a special person and she should not have died this way - in the hands of those who were entrusted to take care of her," said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "Crimes against our community's most vulnerable are unacceptable. My thanks go out to the Webster Police Department and the New York State Justice Center, who worked closely with my prosecutors to hold these two defendants accountable for this terrible crime."

"While any kind of abuse by those trusted to care for vulnerable populations is unacceptable, the conduct of these defendants in causing Heather Roselli's death was unconscionable and is not representative of the thousands of dedicated employees who work tirelessly to serve individuals in state care," said Denise Miranda, Executive Director of the New York State Justice Center. "I commend the Monroe County District Attorney's Office and the Webster Police Department for securing justice for Heather Roselli and her family. The Justice Center will continue to coordinate with law enforcement agencies statewide to hold those who abuse or neglect people with special needs accountable for their actions."

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