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## **Care Facility Operator Convicted of Elder Abuse**

*Alzheimer's patient wandered out of unlicensed home, gone overnight*

The City Attorney's Office has obtained a conviction in the case of an unlicensed care provider who allowed a resident to leave the residential facility unnoticed. The 66-year-old patient, who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, was found wandering in traffic the next day, miles away.

Simeon L. Samson, 57, pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of elder abuse and operating an unlicensed care facility. He was sentenced on February 16 to 30 days in jail, which will be stayed pending successful completion of one year of probation. Samson must also do 40 hours of volunteer work at a nonprofit organization, and is barred from owning or operating an unlicensed care facility, or providing unlicensed care to anyone who requires assistance with routine daily tasks.

Co-defendant, Mila Sison Basa, was granted misdemeanor court diversion in order to avoid spending time in jail. Basa, 67, was also ordered to do 24 hours of community service and divest herself from Samson and his facility.

**“The defendants took advantage of vulnerable patients whom they had no legal authority to house and were not capable of caring for,”** City Attorney Mara W. Elliott said. **“Care providers who put profits ahead of the health and safety of their residents should be prepared to suffer the consequences, including jail time.”**

At one point, Samson owned at least three care facilities in San Diego County, including one in Chula Vista, one on South Siena Street in Bay Terraces, and one in Oak Park. The victim had been discharged from an acute care facility in El Cajon, where social workers arranged for him to move into the facility Samson ran on Quince Street in Oak Park.

On March 15, 2021, the victim was brought to the Oak Park facility, where the social worker spoke to an employee, Basa, to ensure she knew the patient was a flight risk and needed to be in a secure facility. Although Basa appeared to understand, the victim wandered out the front door within an hour of his arrival. He was found the next day in Imperial Beach, walking in traffic. Bystanders saw him and called the police for help.

The facilities run by Samson were allegedly available only to those who are capable of caring for their own needs. However, this individual's dementia was severe: he requires care from a facility with specialized staff and licensing. Samson did not possess the required skill set.

This case was prosecuted by Deputy City Attorney Joseph Raskin, under the supervision of Chief Deputy City Attorney Taylor Hearnberger of the Special Prosecutions Unit.

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