



DISABILITY RIGHTS NEW YORK

New York's Protection & Advocacy System and Client Assistance Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***Staff Charged with Caring For a Person with a Disability Leak Private Information
and Endorse False Rumors on Social Media***

Broome County, NY, April 5, 2017 – In *Allan Walley v. Casey Holtslander and Terri Holtslander*, Disability Rights New York alleges that two staff of the Broome Development Center (Broome DC) violated federal and state privacy laws by releasing protected information and inspiring others to believe false rumors posted on the social media website Facebook. Broome DC is a state operated facility serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The two defendants obtained information as employees of the Broome DC where the plaintiff was a former resident. The leak resulted in Mr. Walley losing his apartment and a volunteer job, and being wrongly ostracized by the community. The lawsuit was filed in the New York State Supreme Court, Broome County.

“These defendants purposefully shared private information about a person with a disability who they were charged with protecting,” said Timothy A. Clune, Esq., DRNY Executive Director. “We are sending a clear message that there are consequences when you violate our client’s rights.”

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