Adult home ‘headhunter’ to pay fine in scam

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A GROUP OF mentally disabled Brooklynnites who were exploited by a convincing adult home patient “headhunter,” won a monetary settlement in a federal lawsuit for their troubles.

Canarsie recruiter Blossom Reyes was ordered to stay away from working with mentally disabled people in New York because she allegedly stole from four helpless patients and unnecessarily placed them in adult homes in exchange for a fee.

“This is someone who took advantage of them and they are old people who have disabilities,” said Kevin Cremin, an attorney for MFY Legal Services, Inc., a firm that represented the four patients along with lawyers from the Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler firm.

Reyes placed the four residents in the New South Shore Manor adult home, pocketing the fees from the home’s owners and swindling them out of more than $40,000.

The scheming recruiter even told one resident, Carol Elem, that she was being evicted from her Queens apartment in order to move her to the Canarsie home and collect the fee. She went as far as paying for her own rent with the patients’ money.

Elem, 69, has since moved back into her apartment and another victim, Domenick Bonito, 63, moved into a single-room occupancy.

The other two residents who fell prey to Reyes, Arnold Loebelson, 67, and Nancy Evans, 61, still live in the home, but the checks they got in December from their settlement will help them fulfill their dreams, Cremin said.

“They’re excited,” he said. “Mr. Loebelson was excited to buy a suit to go to religious services and he also was considering using some of the money to travel... to Israel.”

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