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Former worker at Boston nursing home pleads not guilty to hitting 70-year-old patient

Posted by Matt Rocheleau September 18, 2012 04:31 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A former nursing assistant for a Boston nursing home pleaded not guilty Tuesday to allegations that she hit a 70-year-old patient who has disabilities, state officials said.

Authorities allege a witness saw Marie Romelus, 48, of Hyde Park, used her hand to strike the patient twice on the chest at the Armenian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Jamaica Plain in May, prosecutors said in a statement. She has pleaded not guilty.

The patient, a woman who has suffered a stroke and has long-term cognitive impairment, was lying in her bed and had resisted care from Romelus, who was working there as a certified nursing assistant, according to the statement from prosecutors.

The state health department referred the matter to the state Attorney General's office, which launched an investigation in June, authorities said.

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Once, which launched an investigation in June, authorities said.

Romelus faces a charge of "assault and battery on an elderly person," officials from the Attorney General's office said. She was arraigned in the West Roxbury Division of the Boston Municipal Court Tuesday.

Romelus was ordered to not provide services to seniors or people with disabilities, officials said. She is due back in court on Nov. 13 for a pre-trial conference.

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