

New law protects New York's social workers

by Steven Getman, Attorney

August 20, 2012

New York State has enacted legislation to enhance the criminal penalties for assaulting employees of a county social services district while in performance of their duties.

On Friday, August 17, 2012, Governor Cuomo signed A.4672-S.7720 and it became Chap. 434 of the Laws of 2012.

The new law extends the penalties provided for assaults against other public employees (such as, police officers and school employees) to cover the safety of government workers who deliver social services. This law makes assaulting an employee of any local social services district while performing duties directly related to his or her job, a Class D felony, punishable by up to seven years in prison.

Supporters of the law hope that elevating the current penalty from a misdemeanor to a felony will help serve as a deterrent to those that would use physical force against those who work to protect children and seniors.

The law goes into effect on Nov. 1, 2012. For more on the new law, click here:

<http://tinyurl.com/clcxnne>
