## The Philadelphia Inquire

Thursday, November 19, 2015 Philadelphia Media Network

## Caretaker pleads guilty in death of autistic woman

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**INQUIRER STAFF WRITER** 

The caretaker whose autistic charge froze to death last year after wandering off while shopping at the Macy's store in Center City pleaded guilty Wednesday before a Philadelphia judge.

Weeping uncontrollably, Hussanatu "Ayesha" Wulu entered the plea to a single count of neglect of a caredependent person in the death of Christina Sankey, 37.

Under a plea agreement negotiated by Edward McCann, first assistant district attorney, and defense lawyer Gregory J. Pagano, Wulu was immediately sentenced to 111/2 to 23 months in prison, followed by three Macy's around 2:25 p.m. March 6, years of probation.

Common Pleas Court Judge Benja- Within minutes, Sankey had wanmin Lerner then paroled Wulu to dered away and left the store. Police electronically monitored house ar- found her partly clothed body about rest and allowed her to surrender 6:30 a.m. the next day between two Nov. 30 to begin her sentence.

McCann said Patricia Sankey, the victim's mother, did not feel up to attending the hearing but was satis- According to authorities, Wulu fied that Wulu was held accounta- called 911 an hour after Sankey ble.

adding that Wulu asked McCann to of death as exposure to the cold.

apologize to Sankey's mother for Prosecutors said that since Wulu, what happened. Pagano said Wulu then employed by Casmir Care Serhad worked with Christina Sankey vices, had cared for Sankey for four and her mother for four years and years, she should have known not to had a close relationship with them.

"She feels terrible, and she hasn't Thomas R. Kline, a Philadelphia seen the mother since this hap-lawyer who represents Patricia pened," Pagano added.

Pagano said the conviction means Wulu will never again be able to care for dependent or disabled people.

Wulu, 31, of Southwest Philadelphia, was arrested after a grand jury probe of the circumstances of Sankey's death.

Wulu took Sankey, who was severely disabled and nonverbal, to 2014.

parked cars in the 1400 block of North 57th Street in West Philadelphia.

went missing.

"It's a sad, sad case," said Pagano, A medical examiner ruled the cause

let her wander away.

Sankey and settled a wrongfuldeath claim for an undisclosed amount, said what happened was "unfathomable and indefensible."