

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



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## **Sentencing tomorrow for Brentwood man who smothered his mother**

A Brentwood man who pleaded guilty to suffocating his mother is scheduled for sentencing tomorrow (Tuesday, April 3) in Suffolk County court in Riverhead.

Juan R. Gonzalez, 69, pleaded guilty to second degree manslaughter. He smothered Teresa Astete, 98, in their studio apartment on Wilson Street in May of 2011.

The defendant, suffering from skin cancer, diabetes and a kidney ailment, was the primary caregiver for his blind, deaf and bedridden mother.

Troubled that his failing health would leave his mother alone with no one to care for her, Gonzalez suffocated her and then attempted suicide by slashing his wrists and taking an overdose of insulin. He lost consciousness for five days.

Suffolk County Judge James Hudson (second floor of the courthouse) will sentence Gonzalez to five years' probation with mandatory psychiatric care and six months incarceration; a jail sentence Gonzalez has already served since his arrest .



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Every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

