

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



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March 6, 2012

Brentwood man pleads guilty to second degree manslaughter

A 71 year old Brentwood man who caused the death of his elderly mother in June of last year pleaded guilty today to a charge of manslaughter in the second degree in Suffolk County court.

The defendant, Juan Gonzalez, suffering from skin cancer, diabetes and a kidney disorder requiring regular dialysis, was the primary caregiver for his 98-year old mother Theresa Astete who was blind, deaf and bedridden.

Worried his own declining 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 consuming overdoses of insulin and other medication. Gonzalez lost consciousness for five days.

Suffolk County Judge James Hudson will sentence Gonzalez to five years' probation with mandatory psychiatric care and six months in jail.

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Defendants are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.