

## Account of charge of common assault - Kelly Alexandra Roe

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I presented to Waitemata District Health seeking assistance with sensory hypersensitivity that I was finding personally distressing. The service contact was helpful and I was finally able to access more independent accommodation with the University of Auckland that was quieter and I was regionally re-directed to the Taylor Centre, Ponsonby. I had an initial assessment with a Doctor, saw an occupational therapist for a few sessions, then met with a mental health nurse. I requested to speak with a Doctor again (several months later) and was told I'd need to make the request in writing. After making the request in writing I was told that I was discharged from the service and that I could not see a Doctor (or anyone) at the Taylor Centre.

Several weeks later I went to the Taylor Centre to reiterate that I wanted to speak with a Doctor, and now in part because I wanted to know why I had been discharged from the service. I arrived in the early morning shortly after opening and said that I was prepared to wait quietly in order to speak with a Doctor about why I had been discharged. I knew there could be some flexibility in seeing walk-ins who were prepared to wait on that particular day of the week. I settled quietly into an empty waiting room with an i-pod and book. After around an hour Tracy Foreman noticed I had been waiting and asked reception what I wanted. Reception informed her of what I had told reception, namely, that I wanted to see a Doctor at the Taylor Centre but that I had been discharged from the Taylor Centre. Tracy Foreman then came out to see me in the otherwise empty waiting room and asked me how she could be of assistance to me. I told her that I would like to see a Doctor or make an appointment to see a Doctor. She told me that I couldn't see a Doctor at the Taylor Centre because I had been discharged, and asked how she could be of assistance to me. I reiterated that I wanted to see a Doctor or make an appointment to see a Doctor. I only named a particular Doctor after she suggested that I couldn't see a Doctor if I didn't even know which Doctor I wanted to see.

The conversation became very repetitive. I admit I became increasingly frustrated with it, and with her, as it seemed to me that she was enjoying being obstructive. I didn't lose control, but made more of a decision to punch the stout woman firmly on her deltoid in an attempt to get her to stop being 'helpful' and go away. After a second or so I registered that she hadn't flinched or made any effort to move away from me, and so I hit her again, as before. I regret to say that I hit her around 4 times at a rate of around 1 hit per 2 or 3 seconds until she finally did stand up and move away. She instructed reception to activate the alarms and after a few more seconds activated the duress alarm herself immediately prior to using her security card to exit the room through the security door. I remained seated - but had curled up into a ball position - communicating that I had no intention of leaving. The police were then called and I was arrested charged with assault, and issued with a trespass order. As the incident involved a government worker I was not eligible for diversion.

I would request that the incident be viewed as one of miscommunication. I really do appreciate the seriousness of the charge and understand I must not put myself in that position again. I would request that it be considered within the context of my otherwise spotless record. I don't foresee myself presenting for Psychiatry services in NZ in future.