



Mashpee woman wins \$1M discrimination suit

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MASHPEE – A former Willowbend Country Club employee who said she was dismissed because of her age and then retaliated against has been awarded nearly \$1 million by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

Virginia Dilorio, 64, of Mashpee and Jensen Beach, Fla., was let go in October of 2005 along with 12 other employees, according to the commission. Of those 13 employees, 10 were over 50 years old, and following the layoffs, there were no employees in the club's real estate department over 50.

The hearing officer for the commission rejected the club's explanation that Dilorio was selected because she earned a higher salary than others in the real estate office and wintered out of state.

The officer cited a statement made by Willowbend general manager David Wood that the club wanted to "bring in some younger blood" as part of the reason for its decision.

The decision, made late last month, was announced this week.

George Regan, owner of Regan Communications, a public relations firm representing the club, said the decision was "dead wrong," and that attorneys are already in the process of appealing.

From her Florida home today, Dilorio declined to comment, referring questions to her attorney, Marc Redlich of Boston.

"We are very pleased about the decision," Redlich said. "We believe justice is being done with that decision. The hearing officer found with justification that there was age discrimination."

Read more about the MCAS lawsuit against Willowbend Country Club and the almost \$1 million award in tomorrow's Cape Cod Times.

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