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**D.A. BROWN: SCHOOL THERAPIST CHARGED**  
**WITH SEXUALLY ABUSING STUDENT**

*Faces Up To Seven Years In Prison*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a therapist at an Astoria grammar school has been charged with sexually abusing a six-year-old girl after following her into a bathroom.

District Attorney Brown said, "This is a serious allegation. A child should always feel safe in school. If true, this therapist destroyed the trust of both his students and their parents."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as George Bournias, 31, of 20-31 42<sup>nd</sup> Street in the Astoria section of Queens. Bournias, who was employed as a therapist at Public School 84, located at 22-45 41<sup>st</sup> Street in Astoria, was arraigned today in Queens Criminal Court in Kew Gardens on charges of first-degree sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a child. Bournias, who faces up to seven years in prison if convicted, was released on his own recognizance.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant molested a six-year-old female student on November 20, 2007, after following her into the girls' bathroom, telling her that he, too, had to go to the bathroom. When the child told him that he was in the wrong bathroom, the defendant allegedly responded that the boys' bathroom was too far away.

The child, who was receiving speech and occupational therapy at P.S. 84, reported the alleged incident to her mother, who contacted the police.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Miguel Ruiz and Detective Luz Figueroa, of the New York Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad, under the supervision of Sergeant Guisella Rodriguez.

Assistant District Attorney Debra Bresnahan, who is assigned to the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorneys Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, and Kenneth M. Appelbaum and Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chiefs, and under the overall supervision of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Charles A. Testagrossa and Deputy Executive Assistant District Attorney for Major Crimes Daniel A. Saunders.

It should be noted that a criminal complaint is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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**Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on [www.queensda.org](http://www.queensda.org)**