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**D.A. BROWN: FOREST HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL AIDE
PLEADS GUILTY TO RAPING 11-YEAR-OLD STUDENT**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a longtime aide at P.S. 196 in Forest Hills has pleaded guilty to the statutory rape of an 11-year-old boy more than seven years ago.

District Attorney Brown said, "The defendant has admitted to having betrayed her position of trust at a Forest Hills middle school by taking advantage of a young student. The defendant's conduct is not simply a violation of law but of society's innate code of ethics. Parents should never have to be concerned or worried about their children's well-being when in school."

The District Attorney added, "Fortunately, the law recognizes that, unlike adults, child victims are often not in a position to report their victimization in a timely way. They may be too young or too frightened to disclose the abuse, their abuser may be in a position of authority over them or they may be under the financial or physical control of their abuser. As a result, the law stops the clock for children and tolls the statute of limitations so that the usual five-year period does not begin to run until the time the child actually reports the crime to law enforcement or social services or the child reaches the age of eighteen. As a result, even though the crimes here took place more than seven years ago, the abuser was still able to be brought to justice."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as Lois Enden, 56, of 99-21 67th Road in Forest Hills. Enden, who had been employed as a school aide at P.S. 196 since 1990, pleaded guilty to second-degree rape before Queens Criminal Court Judge Pauline A. Mullings, who indicated that she would sentence the defendant to six months in jail and five years probation on August 20, 2007.

District Attorney Brown said that, in pleading guilty, the defendant admitted that in April 2000, she had sexual intercourse with the victim at a time when he was a fifth grade student at the school.

The District Attorney said that an investigation began approximately in April 2007 when the victim, now 19, met the defendant by chance and told a friend what had occurred while he was a student at P.S. 196, located at 71-25 113 Street in Forest Hills. The friend, in turn, convinced the victim to report the incident to police.

The investigation was conducted by Detective George Negrón of the New York City Police Department's Queens Special Victims Squad under the command of Lieutenant Arthur Hall.

Assistant District Attorney Kenneth M. Appelbaum, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney's Special Victims Bureau, prosecuted the case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief, 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.

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Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted on www.queensda.org