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NINE-YEAR-OLD GIRL ALLEGEDLY SEXUALLY MOLESTED
BY BABYSITTER'S HUSBAND
Faces Up To Seven Years In Prison

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 50-year-old man who works as a custodian at a head start program in the Corona section of Queens has been charged with sexually molesting a 9-year-old girl for whom his wife babysat.

“The defendant is accused of turning a young child’s visits with her babysitter into a terrifying sexual ordeal that not only robbed her of her innocence but will forever soil her childhood memories,” said District Attorney Brown. “The charges are very disturbing.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Jose Duran, 50, of 99-18 41st Avenue in Corona, Queens. Duran, who works as a custodian at the Therese Cervini Head Start Program at 35-34 104th Street, also in Corona, is presently being held pending arraignment on charges of first-degree sexual abuse, second-degree course of sexual conduct against a child and endangering the welfare of a child. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant sexually abused the young girl in his apartment on multiple occasions between November 1, 2008, and March 30, 2009. It is alleged that he warned her not to tell anyone.

The District Attorney said that anyone with additional information or who believes that they may have been a victim is encouraged to contact the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau at 718-286-6505.

The alleged abuse case came to light when, after attending a puppet show at her school about sex abuse, the victim told a guidance counselor that she had been sexually abused.

The investigation was conducted by Detective Richard Lampasona of the New York City Police Department’s Queens Special Victims Squad under the supervision of Lieutenant Arthur Hall, Commanding Officer

Assistant District Attorney Lauren Parson, 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