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**QUEENS MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER CHARGED  
WITH SEXUAL ABUSE OF 14-YEAR-OLD STUDENT**

*Faces Up to Seven Years in Prison If Convicted*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a 27-year-old public school teacher has been charged with the statutory rape of a 14-year-old student on seven separate occasions over the past month. The abuse is alleged to have occurred at MS/IS 8 in Jamaica, where the defendant teaches and the victim is a student.

District Attorney Brown said, "The charges are very disturbing. A teacher is accused of preying on a young student who she is entrusted to teach. A classroom should always be a safe place for a child. The defendant is alleged to have destroyed her students' trust. This case should serve as a clear and unmistakable warning that law enforcement is prepared under any circumstances to apprehend and prosecute sexual predators who betray and defile youngsters."

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Melissa Weber, 27, of 1566 12<sup>th</sup> Street in West Babylon, Long Island. Weber, who is employed as a social studies/homeroom teacher at MS/IS 8, located at 108-35 167<sup>th</sup> Street in Jamaica, Queens, is presently being held pending arraignment in Queens Criminal Court on seven counts of second-degree rape, fourteen counts of third-degree sexual abuse and one count of endangering the welfare of a child. If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the criminal charges, Weber engaged in sexual intercourse with a 14-year-old male student in a second-floor classroom at MS/IS 8 on seven separate occasions between April 13, 2009, and May 14, 2009, and during the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. It is further alleged that Weber told the victim, "Don't tell anyone. I could get arrested and I could lose my teaching license."

The District Attorney said the case came to light yesterday when the boy's mother, who is a member of the PTA, was allegedly told by sources at the school that a teacher was engaging in an inappropriate relationship with her son. The mother obtained the teacher's telephone number and then checked her son's cell phone and allegedly found hundreds of contacts between the teacher and her son over the last two months. It is alleged that one of the last texts from the teacher stated, "Erase your phone." The boy's parents brought their son to the police today.

The investigation was conducted by Detectives Louis Merensky and Richard Everoski, of the New York City Police Department's 103<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Detective Squad, under the supervision of Sergeant Reginald Sykes and Lieutenant Salvatore Salerno.

Assistant District Attorney Lauren R. Parsons, of 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 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)**