



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY**
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000

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CONTACT: PRESS OFFICE
(718) 286-6315

**D.A. BROWN: QUEENS PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER ARRAIGNED
ON CHARGES OF INTERNET SEX CRIMES INVOLVING EIGHT STUDENTS**

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced today that a math teacher at a middle school in the Forest Hills section of Queens was arraigned this past weekend on charges of child endangerment for having engaged in sexually explicit communications with eight of his former or present male students – all of whom are either 12 or 13 years of age.

District Attorney Brown said, “The charges are very disturbing. A teacher is accused of preying on the young students he is entrusted to teach. A classroom should always be a safe place for a child. If true, this teacher destroyed his students’ trust. This case should serve as a clear and unmistakable warning that law enforcement is prepared to apprehend and prosecute sexual predators who betray and defile youngsters.”

The District Attorney identified the defendant as Bradley Dieffenbacher, 32, of 11 Toller Lane in Levittown, Long Island. Dieffenbacher, a math teacher at MS 190Q in Forest Hills, was arraigned on Saturday, February 23, 2008, before Queens Criminal Court Judge Joseph Zayas on a 16-count criminal complaint charging him with one count of Use of a Child in a Sexual Performance, three counts of Attempted Use of a Child in a Sexual Performance, one count of Promoting a Sexual Performance by a Child, three counts of Attempted Promoting of a Sexual Performance by a Child and eight counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. Dieffenbacher, who faces up to 15 years in state prison if convicted, was ordered held on \$150,000 bail and to return to court on March 10, 2008.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, at various times between April 1, 2007, and February 20, 2008, Dieffenbacher sent instant messages over the Internet to eight adolescent boys who had been or were presently students in his junior high school math class. During these conversations, it is alleged that Dieffenbacher asked the students individually if they masturbated, if they liked pornography, if they had a web cam and if they – Dieffenbacher and the student – could masturbate together and broadcast themselves masturbating over the web cameras. Thereafter, Dieffenbacher allegedly sent several of the students links to various Internet pornography sites.

District Attorney Brown said that the arrest was the result of a joint investigation by the Queens District Attorney’s Office and the Office of Special Commissioner of Investigation Richard J. Condon.

The investigation was conducted by Sergeant John W. Kenna and Detective George Choy, of the District Attorney’s Detective Bureau, under the supervision of Lawrence J. Festa, Chief Investigator, and Albert D. Velardi, Deputy Chief Investigator; by Sergeant Guisella Rodriguez, of the New York City Police Department’s Queens Special Victims Squad (at the Queens Child Advocacy Center) under the command of Lieutenant Arthur Hall; by Assistant District Attorneys Debra Bresnahan and Lauren Parsons, of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau, under the supervision of Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chief and Marjory D. Fisher, Bureau Chief; and by Assistant Supervising Investigator Andre Jenkins, of the Office of Special Commissioner of Investigation, under the supervision of Supervising Investigator Louis Torrellas.

Assistant District Attorney Lucinda C. Suarez, Deputy Bureau Chief of the District Attorney’s Special Victims Bureau, is prosecuting 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.

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 Editor: E-version of this press release posted at www.queensda.org.