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**DUTCHESS COUNTY SPECIAL NEEDS TEACHER CHARGED  
WITH SEXUAL ABUSE OF 15-YEAR-OLD STUDENT IN QUEENS**

*Faces Up to Four Years in Prison If Convicted*

Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown today announced that a Dutchess County teacher has been charged with the statutory rape and sexual abuse of a mentally disabled student who attends the school for children with special needs in which she teaches. The abuse is alleged to have occurred in the student's home and in a parking lot, both located in Queens.

District Attorney Brown said, "The charges are very disturbing. The victim is believed to have a 50 IQ, making him particularly vulnerable to a teacher who is supposed to have his best interest in mind."

District Attorney Brown identified the defendant as MandiWeeks, 27, of 4034 County Road in Hannacroix, New York, in Greene County. The defendant is charged with two counts of third-degree rape, three counts of third-degree criminal sexual act, endangering the welfare of a child, and two counts of third-degree sexual abuse. Weeks is awaiting arraignment in Queens Criminal Court. The defendant is employed by The Devereux Foundation and teaches at Devereux New York, 40 Devereux Way, Red Hook, New York. She faces up to four years in prison if convicted.

District Attorney Brown said that, according to the charges, the defendant raped and sexually abused the 15-year-old boy on June 25, 2008, inside of his Queens home. She is also charged with sexually abusing him while sitting in a car in a Queens parking lot on July 6, 2008, then raping and sexually abusing him later that same day inside of his home. The victim attends a year-round residential school for children with special needs. He was home on a break when the abuse is alleged to have happened.

According to District Attorney Brown, the investigation began yesterday when the victim boarded a subway in an effort to find the defendant and got lost. His mother reported him missing and police, in going through his computer in search of leads, allegedly discovered inappropriate e-mails from the defendant.

The case was investigated by the NYPD's 102<sup>nd</sup> Precinct Detective Squad.

Assistant District Attorney Jared Rosenblatt, 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 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)**