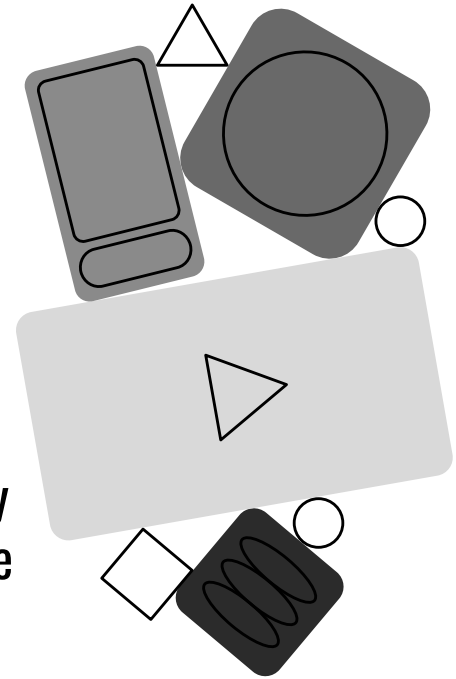


# The Indictment and Prosecution of an Administrator Dealing with Behaviorally Challenged Students: An Insider's Perspective and Her Sage Advice



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## Criminal Charges for Administrators



- Denton ISD-Principal charged with electioneering
- City View ISD- 7 administrators arrested for failure to report
- Fort Bend ISD- 2 school administrators charged with misconduct
- Houston ISD-CFO charged with bribery
- El Paso ISD-principal and associate sup charged with scheming to defraud the federal accountability system.
- Hutto ISD-3 charged with different crimes

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# The Incident



- Happened on November 29, 2018
- Charges filed 2 years later - 1 week before the statute of limitations ran out
- Chargers included were:
  - *Assault of a special needs student*
  - *Unlawful restraint*
  - *Tampering with governmental records*
- An arrest warrant was issued
- Turned myself into the Williamson County Jail 2 days later
- Spent the day in jail until bail was set at \$16,000
  - I had to pay \$1600

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# The Trial

- Took a full week (M-F, 8:30-5:30)
- Jury of 6 instead of 12 (misdemeanor trial rules)
- Assistant District Attorney and her assistant(s) on one side
- My attorneys and I on the other side
- Judge up front
- The judge helped the lawyers if they objected to the wrong thing. She helped the prosecution more than the defence
- Both sides had the chance to call witnesses including experts (this cost \$3000
  - Each witness was cross examined by the other side
  - Both sides could also call rebuttal witnesses at the end



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# The Result

After a week of trial and six hours of deliberation, the jury was hung and it was labelled a mistrial.

Choices:

- Go to trial again
  - Including the cost of lawyers, court transcript (\$6,000), housing of witnesses, etc.
- Plead no contest to one of the charges and the other two will be dropped.
  - No contest is effectively the same as pleading guilty, but it is written as “no contest” in official records

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# My Decision

I chose to plead No Contest to the “Tampering With Government Records” charge.

Why?

- New trial would cost me roughly \$20,000 and insurance would no longer cover it



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# Other Consequences of the Charge

*Texas Educator Certificate*  
Click here to go to EDUCATOR SANCTION HISTORY section  
This certifies that  
**Stacie Leigh Koerth**  
has fulfilled requirements of state law and regulations of the  
State Board for Educator Certification  
and is hereby authorized to perform duties as designated below:

STANDARD			
Description	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Status
<b>Classroom Teacher</b>			
Generalist Grades (4-8)	02/01/2021	01/31/2027	Valid
Secondary Life-Earth Science Grades (6-12)	02/01/2021	01/31/2027	Valid
<b>Principal</b>			
Principal Grades (EC-12)	02/01/2021	01/31/2027	Valid
PROVISIONAL			
Description	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Status
Secondary History Grades (6-12)	05/13/1995	Life	Valid
Secondary Generic Special Education Grades (6-12)	06/01/1999	Life	Valid
EDUCATOR SANCTION HISTORY			
Sanction	Begin Date	Ending Date	Sanction Status
Reprimand	03/29/2023		

Official Record of Certification  
Thursday, November 23, 2024

- Inscribed reprimand on my certification
- If you google my name the 3rd story is my arrest and trial
- Many sleepless nights
- Much anger and many tears
- Emotional toll

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# The Negatives

- The entire thing really sucked
- Some people were not supportive
- Campus principal was charged with “Failure To Report”



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# The Positives

- The superintendent and associate superintendent always had my back
- The principal and some teachers were supportive



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# Lessons Learned

- Always have malpractice insurance, you need it
- Do not touch the students
- Do not assist in any restraints
- Some teachers can be out to get you, especially if they have been reprimanded for their teaching practices
- After you have been on trial watching Law and Order is difficult and not very fun
- You do not get your money back from a bail bondsman. My bond was \$16000, I had to put up \$1600

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# Thank You!

What else would you like to know?