

SAFETY BULLETIN

Spotlight on School Safety | Volume 1 | 2005

IN THE NEWS

Teacher Guilty of Child Sex Abuse

06/2005 — An Oregon music teacher of four years, Gregg Ritchie, was found guilty of 20 counts of encouraging child sexual abuse. Sheriff's investigators found inappropriate Internet chats with a student and pornographic photos on Ritchie's home computer depicting children engaging in sexual activities.

Principal Charged in Sexual Abuse Case

02/2005 — Sigard Jensen, a Christian Academy principal in Washington, was accused of sexually abusing a student and charged with two felonies. Jensen has been a principal since the 80's, and police do not yet know if he has more victims.

Male Student Molested for 14 Months

08/2005 — California resident A. Baker filed a negligent supervision lawsuit against a school district on behalf of her son, a special education student, who was sexually molested by another male student over 14 months on various campus locations, including bathrooms and locker rooms. A \$300,000 judgment was entered against the school district.



How safe is your school?

Children face two potential dangers at school. They may be molested by an educator or volunteer, or one student can fall prey to the sexual acting out of an older or more powerful student. As many as 8 million students may be molested by educators by the time they leave high school, and incidents of abuse between children have increased 300% in the past three years.

Answer the following questions to assess your school's safety...

1. Do you have specific rules about bathroom use and supervision? *Most sexual activity between students occurs in the bathrooms!*
2. Do all of your teachers and volunteers receive training in how to recognize suspicious interactions between adults and children? *If they only learn how to identify abuse after it happens, they can't prevent another child from being abused!*
3. Do you encourage your employees to report their concerns early? *In most cases of abuse in organizations, someone reports*

seeing something strange but not saying anything until after the tragedy!

4. Do your policies specify under what circumstances teachers may have contact with students outside of school? *Most sexual activity between educators and students occurs away from the building!*
5. Do you require independent contractors and vendors to sign indemnification agreements? *If a bus driver, construction worker, consulting psychologist, or after-school child care worker molests one of your students, you could be held liable!*

WHAT'S NEW...

Armatus® Internet-based Training

Finally, you can rest assured that your employees and volunteers get the training they need to keep those in your care safe from child molesters. Armatus® combines science and technology to deliver the most up-to-date and useful information available.

Each 30-minute course uses interactivity, video clips, graphics, and sound effects to fully engage participants. Your employees and volunteers can complete the training anytime, from anywhere with Internet access. The automatic database lets you know that they've filled their training requirements and passed a quiz to demonstrate mastery of the content.

You can preview our latest Armatus course, *How to Keep Your School Safe*, for free! To learn about high risk situations and locations in your school, and specific actions you can take to keep your students safe, contact us at 800.743.6354 for a free time-limited password.



To subscribe to the Safety Bulletin, a complimentary quarterly publication, send your email address to info@praesidiuminc.com.

CHAMPION of the YEAR

**John McCarthy, Director of Risk Management
The Salvation Army-Western Territory**

Every year, Praesidium recognizes someone who inspires and guides an organization in its efforts to promote child safety. Since 2001, John McCarthy has worked tirelessly with his devoted Salvation Army colleagues to develop and implement comprehensive child safe policies and practices in more than 1,700 Salvation Army programs in 13 states. His commitment and dedication set the standard for all of us. The millions of children and families served by The Salvation Army thank him.

About Praesidium

With two decades of experience, Praesidium is the national leader in abuse risk management. We offer a full range of risk management and loss control products and services to help you protect those in your care from abuse and to preserve trust in your organization. Call us today at 800.743.6354 for more information.



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