

News Release
December 21, 1992

SCHOOL DIRECTOR ARRESTED FOR SEXUALLY ABUSING TEENAGE STUDENT

The director of the Bridge School, a Manhattan junior high school for "at risk" students, surrendered today to the Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District after an investigation found that the director sexually abused a male student at the school. On several occasions, the director, Mr. Michael Friedman, removed the student's clothes and spanked him and sexually molested him.

The Special Commissioner's report details the investigation and the events leading to it. Most notably, the fourteen-year-old student called the New York State child abuse hotline himself to report the abuse. The student then, on his own initiative, recorded a telephone conversation he held with the school's director. The report includes excerpts of that conversation as well as portions of another conversation, which the student recorded under the direction of investigators. During the course of the inquiry, investigators discovered that this abuse may be part of a pattern dating as far back as 1985.

The Special Commissioner's investigation was conducted by Special Counsel Regina Loughran and Senior Investigator Clement J. Krug. The office of Manhattan District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau will handle Mr. Friedman's prosecution. Linda Fairstein, Chief of the Sex Crimes Prosecution Unit, will supervise the prosecution.

Copies of the report will be available at 2:30 p.m. today at the Special Commissioner's office. Deputy Commissioner Robert Viteretti will be available for comment and interviews at that time.

The Special Commissioner's office thanks Mr. Morgenthau and Assistant District Attorney Fairstein for their cooperation and assistance in the investigation.