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**Edward F. Stancik**  
Special Commissioner

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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**Bad Advice From Chancellor's District Contributes to a Failure to Report Sex Abuse to the Police**

Edward F. Stancik, Special Commissioner of Investigation for the New York City School District, today released the results of his investigation regarding the failure of an administrator at CS 66, which is in the Chancellor's District, to contact the NYPD upon learning that two male 6<sup>th</sup> graders had sexually abused two 5<sup>th</sup> grade girls in a stairwell at the school. The investigation found that Assistant Principal Judith Ramirez intended to notify the police, but was told not to do so by Donna Baker, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services at the Chancellor's District. Instead, Baker directed Ramirez to continue an internal investigation.

According to Special Commissioner Stancik, although Baker denied any discussion about the police, other evidence corroborated Ramirez's version of events, including her initial plan to call the NYPD and the subsequent instruction against doing so. The investigation also found that an instructional checklist issued by the Chancellor's District, known as "the blue card," which describes 13 steps to be "taken concurrently," confused rather than clarified the situation.

The attack in the stairwell of CS 66, which is located in the Bronx, occurred on May 22, 2001, at about the same time that Mayor Giuliani and City Council Speaker Vallone were announcing proposed legislation which will require school personnel to contact police about suspected crimes involving the health or safety of a child. Failure to do so will be punishable as a misdemeanor. The police were not notified about the CS 66 incident until the next day when the girls' parents learned the specifics of the abuse.

In a letter to Chancellor Harold Levy, Commissioner Stancik recommended that a uniform procedure be developed and disseminated throughout the school system advising employees about the correct steps to be taken when a student reports being abused by another student. His office advocated calling the police first before making notifications "up the line." He also recommended that disciplinary action be taken against Baker and Ramirez, but noted that Baker's instruction mitigated Ramirez's failure and that any punishment should not exceed a reprimand.