

Blind worker at state rehab center charged in patient's sex assault.
Illinois

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/24-7/1474079,blind-worker-charged-patient-sex-assault-031209.article>

March 12, 2009 BY RUMMANA HUSSAIN Criminal Courts Reporter

Officials at a state-run residential facility for the severely disabled said they never contacted police to report two alleged rapes in 2006 because one victim initially failed to tell them about the assault and the other refused to press charges.

Detectives only learned about the alleged rape against an Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education resident this week when a former student told them a man subcontracted by the center for vocational training raped her, but the statute of limitations for that sexual assault, which occurred in either January or February of 2006, had run out.

{Pix} Isaac King, who is legally blind, was charged with sexually assaulting a former student who has cerebral palsy at the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education, where he worked.

Isaac King, 31, however, was charged with two counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault for the Sept. 7, 2006, incident at the center involving the current female student, who suffers from cerebral palsy and has the mental capacity of the 6-year-old.

Police were alerted to the latter assault at the facility, 1950 W. Roosevelt Rd., only because the first woman came forward, Assistant Cook County State's Attorney Michelle Spizzirri said Thursday before King was ordered held in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

The first victim, now a 27-year-old center volunteer, never alerted center officials at the time of the alleged rape, which she said occurred at her home two years after she graduated in 2004, according to Illinois Department of Human Services spokeswoman Marielle Sainvilus.

When she told the center's staff about the alleged rape a month ago, they encouraged her to press charges, Sainvilus said.

King, who is legally blind and came to court with yellow tinted glasses and a walking stick Thursday, told that woman if she didn't have sex with him, he would hit her in the head with a cutting board, well aware that she had a medical shunt in her head that controls the circulation of her blood, a police report said.

Sainvilus said the center did initiate an internal investigation in the 2006 incident and banned King from the center's campus, but that victim, now 22, and her guardian did not want to press charges.

"We cannot force anyone to press charges. The guardian has the last word," Sainvilus said.

At the time of that alleged rape, King worked for the not-for-profit WE Association and was helping the residents at the center prepare gift baskets to sell.

The victim, who uses a walker, and her wheelchair-bound classmate stayed behind with King in the facility's "Purple Room" to help get material ready for the next day, Spizzirri said.

At some point, King closed the door with the two inside and asked the victim to have sex with him, Spizzirri said. She said "no," but he then assaulted her, Spizzirri said.

The friend, who has spina bifida and the mental capacity of a kindergartener, was still in the room during the assault, and after the attack, the victim told the friend she didn't want to have sex with King, Spizzirri said.

King, of the 8000 block of South Francisco Avenue, is employed by the Lighthouse for The Blind, according to the police report.

© Copyright 2009 Digital Chicago, Inc.