

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

OZAUKEE COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Plaintiff,

DA Case No.: 2025OZ000175

Assigned DA/ADA: Benjamin Lindsay

vs.

Court Case No.: 2025CF

DANIEL H RICK
N170 W20278 Hunters Rd
Jackson, WI 53037
DOB: 07/20/1988
Sex/Race: M/W
Alias:

Defendant(s).

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

For Official Use

The undersigned law enforcement officer being first duly sworn, states that:

Count 1: CHILD ENTICEMENT

The above-named defendant on or about January 2024 in the Village of Thiensville, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, with intent to cause a child to expose genitals, pubic area or intimate parts to him, did cause VICTIM A to go into a room or secluded place, contrary to sec. 948.07(3), 939.50(3)(d) Wis. Stats., a Class D Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than twenty five (25) years, or both.

Count 2: EXPOSING PUBIC AREA

The above-named defendant on or about January 2024 in the Village of Thiensville, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, for purposes of sexual arousal or gratification, did cause a child to expose their pubic area, contrary to sec. 948.10(1)&(1)(a), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

PROBABLE CAUSE

This complaint is based upon reports of law enforcement officers employed by the Thiensville Police Department and the Ozaukee County Sheriff's Office. Those reports reveal the following:

On November 15, 2024, the Thiensville Police Department received a Child Protective Services (CPS) report regarding the above-referenced defendant who at that time teacher at Christ Alone Lutheran School in the Village of Thiensville, County of Ozaukee. The defendant was the third and fourth grade teacher and also athletic director at the school. The original CPS report handled by Milwaukee County CPS and involved an allegation that the defendant had inappropriate contact with a boy student. The reported contact occurred repeatedly when the student was in third and fourth grade. The behavior included having the student sit on the defendant's lap, touching the student's stomach, and kissing the student on the student on the top of the head.

Chief Curt Kleppin met with school administrators and learned that the defendant had resigned from his position at the school. School administrators reported that there were similar concern reported from other parents as well. The defendant resigned his position with the school on November 17, 2024.

The Thiensville Police Department arranged a forensic interview of student that was the subject of the original CPS report. The child reported the defendant would have him sit on his lap, "touch his [the child's] tummy," and kiss the child's head. The student stated that the defendant told him, "God hasn't blessed me with a wife, or like children or something, so I think whatever you think of me, like a brother, uncle, or dad or whatever, that's like okay or something, cause I think we have a bond or something" The student also reported that the defendant later told him that they could not this anymore because the defendant could lose his job or go to jail.

Investigators then became aware that the defendant's was reportedly engaging in similar conduct with other boy students. Another boy student's parents had raised concerns that their son (then age nine) was frequently sitting on the defendant's lap. Those parents met directly with the defendant in January 2024 raise concerns about appropriate boundaries and physical contact. The parents later told investigators that the defendant quickly broke into tears during the meeting. The defendant seemed to attempt to justify his behavior and stated something similar to "because I don't have kids of my own, there's part of me that wants that." He also said, "I compare it to the story in the Bible and Jesus saying, 'Let the little children come to me.'"

The parents later learned from other third and fourth grade students that the defendant's behavior did not stop after that meeting. The defendant also reportedly told the boy student not to share anything with his parents.

Investigators learned that the defendant was known to have "favorite" boy students each year. Multiple students reported inappropriate behavior similar to that listed above. Many of these students reported that the defendant was their favorite teacher.

A forensic interview was conducted with VICTIM A on December 12, 2024. VICTIM A reported much of the same inappropriate contact that other boy students reported. VICTIM A also disclosed an incident that occurred in January 2024 when VICTIM A was 10 years old. VICTIM A stated that during his lunch period, the defendant told VICTIM A that he wanted to see him after school. At the defendant's direction, VICTIM A left after-school care and went to the defendant's classroom.

VICTIM A said to the defendant, "You wanted to see me?" The defendant then told VICTIM A how VICTIM A's athletic ability matched the seventh and eighth graders. The defendant told VICTIM A not to feel awkward and pulled down VICTIM A's pants to see his pubic hair. VICTIM A stated "he like pulled down my pants a little, not like to see my private parts, but he just wanted to see how much hair I had." The defendant then pulled VICTIM A's pants back up and told him that he "wasn't trying to be weird." VICTIM A stated that he thought the defendant closed the classroom door before pulling VICTIM A's pants down.

VICTIM A reported another incident that occurred in fourth grade when he stayed in the defendant's classroom for a bit after school instead of going immediately to after-school care. VICTIM A stated that the defendant kissed VICTIM A on the cheek. The defendant then told VICTIM A to kiss him and tapped his own cheek to demonstrate where VICTIM A should kiss him. VICTIM A reported that this made him feel awkward. The defendant told VICTIM A that he loved him either before or after kissing VICTIM A on the cheek. The defendant later told VICTIM A that he should not tell anyone "about the saying I love you or the kissing" because the defendant "didn't want to get in trouble."

Investigator Karsen Frame interviewed the defendant about these allegations on January 17, 2025. The defendant denied having "favorites" and said that the kids at school made that up. However, the defendant admitted to having boy students sit on his lap and giving them hugs. The defendant said that he had a closer bond to the boy students who were involved in athletics. The defendant claimed that he did not initiate the physical contact and that it was always the students who started it.

The defendant also admitted to telling boy students that he loved them and to rubbing their backs. The defendant stated that this was always on top of clothing, but then said that there could have been a time when a student was wearing a shorter shirt and there was skin contact. The defendant was asked about rubbing anyone's stomach and he stated that, if it did happen, it was just because he was trying to shift the student on his lap and grabbing their waist.

The defendant then also admitted to kissing one boy student possibly on the forehead, but again claimed that the child initiated it. The defendant stated that the student "kissed me, and I kissed him back."

When asked about pulling down VICTIM A's pants, the defendant stated VICTIM A was doing great at athletics. He claimed that VICTIM A told him that he had some body hair "but, um, it was just, um, not pubic, it was kind of like the tummy area." The defendant stated that he told VICTIM A to show him and then VICTIM A lifted up his shirt. The defendant stated that he helped VICTIM A "a little bit" but denied pulling down VICTIM A's pants. The defendant stated that this incident occurred in his classroom.

The defendant was later asked again about this incident and admitted to looking "a little further." When asked if this meant that he pulled VICTIM A's pants down a little bit just to see a little lower, the defendant said, "Just a little bit. Like it wasn't full on, you know, pulled the pants down". The defendant again claimed that VICTIM A told him about pubic hair and claimed that he was "kind of curious." The defendant admitted that that what he did was wrong.

The defendant was then asked if there were other incidents in which he did things that he realized he shouldn't have done. The defendant reported that when certain students were on his lap he would "pat" or "tap" their bottoms to get them to go back to their desk. The defendant reported that this "bottom patting" occurred with four boy students.

The defendant gave consent to a forensic download of his phone. The defendant admitted to viewing pornography involving younger males. The defendant stated that he uses Google to search for pornography and stated that he uses search terms such as "Um, just naked boys" or "nude hairless".

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 01/21/25
Electronically Signed By:
Benjamin Lindsay
District Attorney
State Bar #: 1079445

Electronically Signed By:
Deputy Ryan Swendson
Complainant