

TEACHER ACCUSED OF SEXUAL ABUSE, PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

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A former Georgetown District High School teacher is facing several allegations of professional misconduct, including the sexual abuse of a student.

According to a hearing notice from the discipline committee of the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT), Darren Mansfield is alleged to have had sex with a female student "on multiple occasions" between June and September 2016 and provided her alcohol one or more times.

The document details other interactions he allegedly had with four other female students between 2016 and 2021, including that he: told one of them he "had kissed three of his students," al-

lowed a student to visit his home, had dinner at a restaurant with a student, and exchanged personal text messages, emails and social media messages with multiple students, with some of the communications indicating that he was drunk.

Attempts to reach Mansfield for comment were unsuccessful.

The OCT's discipline committee notice says it will soon hold a hearing to "decide whether the allegations are true" and if Mansfield is guilty of professional misconduct. A date has yet to be set. The allegations have not been tested.

Under the Ontario College of Teachers Act, it's alleged that Mansfield abused a student or students sexually, psychologi-



Kathryn Boyle photo

Darren Mansfield was a former teacher at Georgetown District High School.

cally or emotionally, and that he "committed acts that, having regard to all the circumstances, would reasonably be regarded by members as disgraceful, dishonourable or unprofessional."

The ages of the students involved were not included in the documentation, and their grades were redacted.

Halton District School Board communications manager Marnie Denton said the board is aware of the allegations and the OCT hearing process. She said that Mansfield is no longer employed by the board.

"Mansfield was assigned home as soon as we were made aware of the allegations," she said. "A board investigation was initiated, in partnership with the Halton Children's Aid Society and in consultation with the Halton Regional Police child abuse and sexual assault unit, according to our procedures."

Halton Regional Police media relations officer Ryan Anderson said the local department "did not receive a criminal complaint and no person has come forward to make a report" regarding Mansfield's alleged conduct.

HALTON RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

- **Halton Regional Police Service Victim Services Unit:**
905-825-4777
- **Halton Women's Place:**
905-878-8555 (north) or
905-332-7892 (24-hour crisis line)
- **Halton Children's Aid Society:**
905-333-4441 or 1-866-607-5437
- **Nina's Place:**
905-336-4116 or 905-681-4880
- **Thrive Counselling:**
905-637-5256 or 905-845-3811
- **Sexual Assault and Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS) of Halton:**
905-875-1555 (24-hour crisis line).

"No criminal charges have been laid by the Halton Regional Police Service," he said.

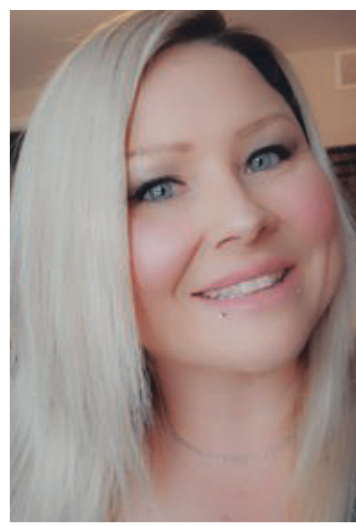
According to the OCT website, Mansfield has been a teacher since 2004. He had his certificate of qualification and registration suspended on May 26, 2021 on an interim basis until the allegations have been heard by the discipline committee.

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