



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**[nyc.gov/html/doi](http://nyc.gov/html/doi)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**DOI ARRESTS JUVENILE COUNSELOR FOR ALLEGEDLY ABUSING RESIDENT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation, announced today the misdemeanor arrest of DOUGLAS JAMES for allegedly sexually abusing a resident at a New York City Department of Juvenile Justice secure detention center

JAMES, 53, of Brooklyn, has been charged with Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, a Class A Misdemeanor, Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, a Class B Misdemeanor, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a Class A Misdemeanor. If convicted, JAMES faces up to one year in jail.

DOI began its investigation after a Department of Juvenile Justice official reported that a 15-year old resident may have been touched inappropriately several times by a Juvenile Counselor. DOI investigators interviewed the victim and eyewitnesses who said they saw James place the victim's injured foot on James' thigh and genitals. The victim said James repeated the behavior at least twice when the two were alone.

"The conduct charged here is upsetting and appalling," said Commissioner Gill Hearn. "Mr. James' job is to care for children. His alleged conduct goes against everything a counselor should do or represent. I am glad that the alleged victim came forward to report such depraved behavior."

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DJJ Commissioner Neil Hernandez for his assistance and cooperation in this investigation.

This investigation was conducted by Assistant Commissioner Michael Caruso and members of his staff, including Deputy Inspector General Valerie Brown, Supervisory Investigator Octavia Hill and Investigator Lawrence McGugins.

The office of Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes is handling the matter. Assistant District Attorney Michael McGuire will prosecute.

Criminal complaints are merely an accusation. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

***Get the worms out of the Big Apple.***  
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