



The City of New York  
Department of Investigation

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**DOI AND MANHATTAN DA CHARGE JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNSELOR WITH  
SEXUALLY ABUSING THREE TEENAGE RESIDENTS AT MANHATTAN FAMILY COURT**

ROSE GILL HEARN, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), announced today the arrest of TONY SIMMONS, a Juvenile Counselor with the Department of Juvenile Justice ("DJJ"), on charges of sexually abusing female, teenage residents in DJJ custody in 2005 and 2008. The arrest is the result of a joint investigation with New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, whose office is also prosecuting the case.

SIMMONS, 45, of the Bronx, was charged with two counts each of Rape in the Third Degree and Criminal Sexual Act in the Third Degree, both class E felonies, and four counts of Sexual Abuse in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a class E felony is punishable by up to four years in prison, and a class A misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year's incarceration.

SIMMONS has been with DJJ for approximately 16 years and is employed as a juvenile counselor in the Court Services Division. Since DJJ became aware of the sexual abuse allegations in July 2008, SIMMONS was suspended for 30 days without pay, prohibited from having contact with any juvenile residents and assigned to a desk position. He currently receives an annual salary of \$37,291.

DOI Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn said, "It's difficult to imagine a more shocking abuse of the public trust than a juvenile justice counselor's sexual exploitation of minors in his custody. That he is charged with committing such crimes right in the Family Court building, and as long as three years ago, makes this case all the more troubling. Thankfully, the individual was promptly sealed off from contact with juveniles once the allegations surfaced, and the charges are being pursued in the criminal justice system." Commissioner Gill Hearn urged anyone with information about sexual abuse in the City's juvenile justice system to call DOI at (212) 825-5959.

DOI began its investigation in July 2008 after it was notified by DJJ about a sexual abuse allegation from a resident, who was 15 years old at the time of the incident, who said SIMMONS engaged in sexual acts with her at the Manhattan Family Court at 60 Lafayette St. DOI was joined by the New York County District Attorney's Office, and investigators uncovered allegations involving two other teenage girls who were in DJJ custody at the time of the incidents in 2005.

A former DJJ resident, who was 15 years old at the time of the incident, alleged that in September 2005, SIMMONS had sexual intercourse with her at the Manhattan Family Court.

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A second former DJJ resident, who was 16 years old at the time of the incident, alleged that in November 2005, SIMMONS performed a sexual act on her at the Manhattan Family Court.

Commissioner Gill Hearn thanked DJJ Commissioner Neil Hernandez and New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau, and their staffs, for their assistance and cooperation in the investigation.

Assistant District Attorney Amir Vonsover of the office of New York County District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau is prosecuting the case.

The investigation was conducted by the staff of DOI's Office of the Inspector General for DJJ, including Assistant Inspector General Bradley Howard, Supervising Investigator Octavia Hill, and Confidential Investigator Jared Feirstein, under the direction of Inspector General Michael Sarnier and Associate Commissioner Julie Block. DOI investigators worked with the Sex Crimes Unit of the New York County District Attorney's Office, including Senior Investigator Edward Tacchi, and members of the District Attorney's Central Investigation Unit, including Supervising Investigator Jose Flores and Senior Investigators Terence Hayes and Mark Stewart.

Criminal complaints are merely accusations. Defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

*DOI is one of the oldest law-enforcement agencies in the country. The agency investigates and refers for prosecution City employees and contractors engaged in corrupt or fraudulent activities or unethical conduct. Investigations may involve any agency, officer, elected official or employee of the City, as well as those who do business with or receive benefits from the City.*

**Get the worms out of the Big Apple.  
To report someone ripping off the city, call DOI at (212) 825-5959.**