

Drama teacher accused of sex with student

Abruptly resigned last week from Lake Zurich High School

 Comments

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BY STEPHANIE KOHL Pioneer Press

A Lake Zurich High School drama teacher who resigned abruptly last week has been charged with having sexual relations with a student at the suburban school, police said.

Ronald D. Culver, 51, of Inverness, was charged Monday with aggravated criminal sexual abuse, a Class 2 felony. He posted \$10,000 bail and was released.

Culver, who also taught public speaking, quit Friday after the allegations against him were made the day before, officials said.

"This was an individual placed in a position of trust, and he violated that trust," Lake Zurich Police Chief Pat Finlon said.

District 95 Supt. Mike Egan described the mood at Lake Zurich High School as one of "shock" and disbelief. "It's a sad day within the high school," he said.

The alleged contact is still under investigation, and so far, officials are only aware of the one allegation.

The sexual abuse charge was upgraded to "aggravated" because the alleged contact took place on school property and Culver held a position of authority, officials said.

Culver is scheduled for a preliminary hearing in Lake County Court on Nov. 18. If convicted, he faces up to seven years in prison and a fine of up to \$25,000.

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