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PRESS RELEASE

**Downingtown High School Teacher Arrested for
Child Pornography and Unlawful Contact with Student**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and the Downingtown Borough Police Department announced the arrest of Brandon Keith Mitchell for Unlawful Contact with Minor, Child Pornography, Endangering Welfare of Children, and Corruption of Minors. The defendant is alleged to have engaged in numerous sexually explicit solicitations and conversations with one of his chemistry students through text messaging.

The defendant is 30 years old and resides in West Chester, Pennsylvania. The defendant was a chemistry teacher at Downingtown West High School in Chester County from November 30, 2010 until April 16, 2015, when he was suspended due to this investigation. The defendant has subsequently resigned from his teaching position at the high school.

The allegations from the criminal complaint¹ are as follows:

The defendant in this case was the victim's chemistry teacher when the victim was a junior at Downingtown West High School and 16 years of age. The defendant and the victim communicated through text messaging, not using the school's email system. The defendant solicited the victim to send him nude photographs of the victim. The defendant told the victim that he wanted to watch the victim masturbate and sent the victim approximately 20 nude photographs of

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

himself. The victim sent the defendant approximately 10 nude photographs and one sexually explicit video of the victim.

Pursuant to a search warrant, a search of the defendant's electronic devices and phone records revealed over 12,000 text messages between the defendant and the victim. These conversations lasted from May 2013 until December 2014. The defendant told the victim to delete their conversations.

Despite this attempt to hide the crime, police were able to recover text messages that the defendant sent to the victim in June of 2013 suggesting that the victim perform oral sex on the defendant after the victim graduated from high school. Police also recovered hundreds of other sexually explicit text messages, several nude images of the victim, and a sexually explicit video of the victim on the defendant's laptop computer.

The defendant was arrested on February 3, 2016 and charged with multiple counts of Child Pornography, Unlawful Contact with Minor, Endangering Welfare of Children, and Corruption of Minors. The defendant's bail was set at \$50,000 unsecured. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at District Court 15-4-02 in Downingtown.

District Attorney Chief of Staff Charles Gaza stated, "This defendant used his position of trust and authority to engage in serious misconduct with a student. As always in cases like this, where a teacher had access to hundreds of students over multiple years, the authorities are concerned that there may be other victims out there."

This case was investigated by the Downingtown Borough Police Department with assistance from the Chester County Detectives. Anyone with further information should contact Downingtown Detective Andy Trautmann at 610-269-0263.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan