

Penfield teacher accused of giving alcohol to student

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A Penfield High School teacher has been charged with unlawfully dealing with a child for allegedly providing alcohol to a 17-year-old student sometime in September.

According to State Police, Eric J. Brewer, 46, gave the student alcohol while they were at Brewer's Perinton home. He was arrested on Tuesday.

Police said the 17-year-old has since graduated and is no longer a student at Penfield High School.

The allegations are the result of an investigation into a relationship Brewer had with the teen, police said.

According to court documents, Brewer admitted to police that he provided the 17-year-old female student with "several alcoholic beverages" at his home on Harvest Drive sometime between Sept. 17 and Oct. 17.

A statement from the student was included with the court documents. In that, she said she had transferred to Penfield High School from another district for her senior year and joined the robotics team in September 2017.

Brewer was the robotics team's mentor, and the student said she also had him as a teacher for a computer science and engineering class.

She said she struck up a friendship with teammates over video games and would sometimes play games together and talk with them over the Discord voice and text chat app, where Brewer used the screen name Techsensei. In her statement, the girl said she had a question about homework in early September and messaged Brewer using Discord. A couple of days later, she said, he responded, using personal background information on her that he'd looked up in the school records as a pretense to befriend her.

She said Brewer began allowing her to sit in his classroom during lunch and free periods and would invite her into his office and ask her to tell him about her life.

They began communicating more regularly and within a week or so, she said, Brewer "started to ask me what I was into sexual wise" and began turning all their conversations to the topic of sex.

Sometime in late September or early October, the girl said, Brewer picked her up at her home and drove her to his house on Harvest Drive.

There, he provided her with multiple bottles of a Seagram's alcoholic beverage that he retrieved from a refrigerator in his garage.

The teen said Brewer lied to his roommate and told him she was a 22-year-old former student who had come to visit him.

In the statement, the student said Brewer told her his "goal was to make sure I was comfortable."

The teen said Brewer kept encouraging her to drink more as they sat together on his couch and watched a movie.

The student said Brewer eventually suggested they go sit on his bed and talk. Once in the room, she said, Brewer removed his pants and began removing her clothes.

Brewer and the student had sexual intercourse, the student said.

“Between the alcohol and everything that was going on, I just let it happen and didn’t really say anything,” she told police.

The age of consent in New York is 17.

In a statement, Penfield schools spokeswoman Nancy Bradstreet said the district was cooperating fully with the investigation and that Brewer, a technology teacher at the high school, has been placed on administrative leave.

He has been a teacher in the district for 13 years.

Counselors are being made available to any students or staff members who may need support.

Anyone with additional information about the case is asked to call State Police at (585) 279-0144.

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Brewer