

Webster teacher admits to recording girls changing

WILL CLEVELAND

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A former Webster teacher admitted Thursday to recording two students as they changed in a school bathroom. Terrance P. Hoctor, 44, who was a fourth-grade teacher at State Road Elementary School, pleaded guilty to second-degree unlawful surveillance, a felony. As part of the plea agreement, Hoctor agreed to six months at the Monroe County Jail, five years of probation, eight years of a no-contact order of protection for each victim, registering as a sex offender, and forfeiture of his teaching license. He is scheduled to be sentenced Nov. 13.

Hoctor was initially charged with two counts of unlawful surveillance, a felony, and two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor.

Hoctor, of Webster, recorded two female students with a mobile phone as the girls changed their clothing in a school bathroom, according to Webster Police Chief Joseph Rieger said. He had been a teacher with Webster Central School District since September 2006.

The incident reportedly took place inside State Road Elementary School on March 3. The two girls, ages 9 and 10, were State Road students. The girls were changing for the school's Pajama Day. Hoctor directed them to the teachers' restroom because it "was cleaner than the student bathroom," federal court records say. Hoctor went into the restroom first to "check it." While

he was inside, the 10-year-old girl heard a "ding" that she "recognized as the type of noise that a phone makes," the court records said. Inside, she noticed a stand in the corner of the bathroom with baskets upon it.

The girl then spotted a cellphone "propped up on its side on the stand," according to court papers. The girl recognized the phone as belonging to Hoctor and saw that it was recording.

Acting calmly, the student "did not want Hoctor to know that she had seen the phone, so she propped the phone back up where she had found it," the federal court records say.

Upon leaving the restroom she tried to tell the other girl "not to go inside." She started to whisper to her classmate, but Hoctor told her to return to class.

The 10-year-old later told her parents, who notified Webster police about the incident.

"It took a lot of courage for these young children to come forward and say something," Rieger said at a news conference in March.

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Terrance Hoctor