



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2018

CONTACT: LAWRENCE ROBERT
323-236-9992

Riverside Unified School District Accused of Falsifying, Destroying and Failing to Produce Records of Alleged Child Molestation by Elementary School Teacher's Aide

Irvine, California - Attorneys representing three alleged victims of child sexual abuse by former Liberty Elementary School Teacher's aide Fernando Figueroa filed a motion in Riverside County Superior Court requesting sanctions against the Riverside Unified School District and its attorneys. [Click here for motion](#)

The motion alleges that RUSD and its attorneys engaged in a "sandbagging" scheme designed to prevent the victims from obtaining evidence that Figueroa had molested children at the school.

Victim's attorney Morgan Stewart said, "All of the evidence points to an intentional scheme by RUSD and their counsel to obstruct and deny justice. Evidence of criminal conduct was destroyed, records of misconduct by RUSD employees were falsified and other records were not produced. All of this was done to cover up the alleged sexual abuse of children as young as 8 years old. We are asking the Court to take action against the perpetrators of this disgusting scheme and hold them accountable."

According to the motion, the "sandbagging" scheme included the destruction of records containing complaints from children about molestation by Figueroa, falsification of employee supervision records related to Figueroa and failure to produce records in a timely fashion as required by law.

The mother of Plaintiff Jane LAM Doe said, "The District talks about student safety, but left my daughter alone with a sexual predator. I have learned that they did so despite Mr. Figueroa having a criminal record for sexual abuse of a minor. And they did so after falsifying records to show that he was supervised but he was not. This is reprehensible."

RUSD and its employees have been reported to the State Attorney General, the California Department of Education, The Riverside Police Department and the Commission on Teacher Credentialing for falsifying records and child endangerment related to this case and investigations are ongoing.

In a sworn deposition, school psychologist Sheila Eiden-Assumma testified that she had destroyed all of her notes containing statements of children alleging abuse by Figueroa despite an ongoing police investigation and civil litigation.

In another deposition, RUSD employee Tuesday Ramuni disclosed a scheme by herself and Liberty Elementary Principal Esther Garcia to create records reflecting that Fernando Figueroa was supervised as required. In truth, Figueroa was left alone with students up to two hours a day.

Fernando Figueroa has been charged with seven counts of lewd conduct with a child under age 14 and one count of oral copulation of a child under 10. He currently in jail awaiting trial.

[Manly, Stewart & Finaldi](#) is the nation's leading firm representing athletes in child sexual abuse cases against school districts, Universities and Olympic Governing Bodies. They recently represented 180 alleged victims of former Olympic Team doctor Larry Nassar resulting in a \$500 million-dollar settlement against Michigan State University. In 2018 the firm settled cases against the Torrance Unified School District for \$31 million on behalf of alleged victims of former wrestling coach and convicted child molester Thomas Snider, against Los Angeles Unified School district for \$8 million in cases involving former football coach and convicted child molester Jamie Jimenez and for \$14 million in cases involving former Los Angeles Unified District employee Ronnie Lee Roman.