



PRESS RELEASE

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SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIM'S ATTORNEYS ASK COURT TO PROTECT 9 AND 10-YEAR-OLD GIRLS FROM INTERROGATION BY RIVERSIDE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Irvine, California - Attorneys representing 9 and 10-year-old girls who allege sexual battery by Fernando Figueroa, a technology aide at Liberty Elementary School, a school within Riverside Unified School District, have filed a motion in Riverside County Superior Court asking the court to protect the children from the "harassment and embarrassment" of being subjected to harmful deposition questioning by the District attorneys. [Click here for Motion for Protective Order](#) [Click here for Declaration](#) [Click here for Declaration](#)

According to the motion, "The Protective Order requested here will accomplish the ends of justice in that it will prevent the **injustice** of permitting Defendant RUSD from embarrassing, harassing and asking unreasonable questions to Plaintiffs during their deposition, in an attempt to paint the Plaintiffs as liars, assert Plaintiffs are negligent in their own abuse, and set out to make these little girls appear as though they have not been severely injured and/or damaged by the abuse they suffered at the hands of RUSD's employee, FIGUEROA."

The motion alleges that during technology club hours, Figueroa engaged in sexual misconduct with the children which included fondling them, rubbing their genitals, and ultimately digitally penetrating them with his fingers.

Figueroa was arrested and is being held on \$4 million bail on suspicion of lewd or lascivious acts with a child under 14, and oral copulation with a child under 10. Victim's attorney Morgan Stewart said that the protective order was necessary to protect the children from a "shameful defense by RUSD casting these girls as liars and negligent in their own abuse."

"RUSD has admitted that when they hired Figueroa they knew he had a juvenile record for past sexual misconduct. They kept him on their payroll while he sat in jail awaiting trial for molesting my clients. Now they want to revictimize these little girls by making them relive their abuse under hours of questioning. This is illegal, it is unjust, and we are asking the court to stop it," said Mr. Stewart.

Tim Walker, Riverside Unified School District Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, recently testified under oath that he did not know the age of consent in California, exemplifying the approach taken by the District towards its students.

[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.