

Office of the Kane County State's Attorney



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WEST AURORA H.S. TEACHER PLEADS GUILTY TO SEXUAL ABUSE ORLAND GETS 12-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE; MUST REGISTER FOR LIFE AS SEX OFFENDER

March 9, 2012

A West Aurora High School music teacher has pleaded guilty to engaging in sexual acts with two students at the school.

Stephen P. Orland, 42 (d.o.b. 4-2-1969), of the 2700 block of Bauer Road, North Aurora, today agreed with the Kane County State's Attorney to a sentence of 12 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections in exchange for a guilty plea to two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse, each a Class 2 felony.

Associate Judge Allen M. Anderson accepted the plea.

In January 2010, and October 2010, Orland had sexual contact with two of his female students. The sex acts took place in the band storage room at West Aurora High School. In addition to the sex acts, Orland sent tens of thousands of text messages, many of which were intimate in nature, to the victims' cellular telephones, and would leave romantic notes and cards in the victims' school lockers. Orland also paid for tutoring and musical instruments for the victims. Orland was in a position of trust and authority and the victims were younger than 18 at the time of the sex acts, which were insulting and provoking in nature.

During the hearing, Orland read to the court a lengthy prepared statement in which he declined to apologize to his victims.

"You have disgraced your profession and you have weakened the trust that parents place in the educational system," Judge Anderson told Orland. "You cannot undo the damage you have done to your victims."

Orland is eligible for day-for-day sentencing. He was given zero credit for time served in the Kane County jail. Orland had been free since his arrest on \$10,000 bond.

Upon his release from IDOC, Orland must register for life as a sex offender in accordance with the Illinois Sex Offender Registration Act.

"Few things are more distressing than when someone in a position of authority, such as this defendant, abuses that position for his own sexual gratification," Kane County State's Attorney Joe McMahon said. "Such blatantly self-serving acts undermine all

who are entrusted with the well-being of our children. Sadly, this defendant, who was an acclaimed educator, chose to victimize students who had trusted him to mentor and guide them. And the manner in which this defendant chose to breach the trust placed in him is unconscionable.

“The victims and witnesses in this case are to be praised for the courage they showed in coming forward. It could not have been easy, knowing they would face scorn and ridicule from this defendant’s allies. But they showed mettle and resolve that will prevent other young women from being exploited and victimized by this defendant.

“Lastly, my sincerest thanks to Aurora Police Detectives Nancy Rodarte and Kevin Jenkins for their thorough investigation in the case, and to Kane County Assistant State’s Attorney Pam Monaco, who fought tirelessly for justice for these victims.”