

Trainer charged with rape worked in other local districts

Sarah Taddeo

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK

Athletic trainer Austin Pratt, who was charged last week with rape allegedly involving a minor, was contracted to work with at least two other local school districts in addition to Geneseo.

Both the Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School District (Midlakes) and the Bloomfield Central School District released statements to district parents regarding Pratt's involvement at the schools, saying that he was employed by UR Medicine's F.F. Thompson Health Systems and was contracted to work with student athletes as an athletic trainer.

"The safety and security of our students and staff is of our utmost concern and the School District will fully cooperate with the New York State Police on its investigation," read both statements.

Pratt, 30, of Wayland, Steuben County, was contracted to work with the Geneseo Central School District in a similar way. He was present at home athletic events and provided care to student athletes on a daily schedule, according to district Superintendent Tim Hayes.

Pratt's employment with Thompson Health was terminated after he was charged, and he is no longer working on the aforementioned school campuses. He has been banned from the Geneseo campus, Hayes said. The district is cooperating with the investigation, and parents with concerns about their children should contact the district, he said. Pratt was charged Saturday with third-degree rape and third-degree criminal sexual act, both felonies, and endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor, after he was accused of

having sex with a child under 17 on Dec. 31 in the village of Geneseo, according to State Police.

His case has been waived to a grand jury, according to Geneseo Village Court officials.

Pratt joined UR Medicine F. F. Thompson Health Systems in 2015 as an athletic trainer and worked primarily at the system's hospital in Canandaigua, according to a UR Medicine Thompson Health spokesperson.

"At this point we have no reason to believe that Pratt was involved in other instances of improper behavior," a health system statement read. "Our thoughts are with the victim and the victim's family."

The investigation is ongoing, and anyone with information should contact State Police headquarters at (585) 393-4100.

STADDEO@Gannett.com



Pratt