

Former aide gets 3 years for raping special needs child

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A former East Irondequoit teacher's aide convicted of raping a student, was sentenced in Monroe County Court Thursday morning.

Crying in court, Jennifer Kennard, 48, was sentenced to three years in state prison for six counts of second-degree rape, a felony, by Judge Vincent Dinolfo.

Kennard was also sentenced to two years in prison on two counts of third-degree rape, a felony, and one year in Monroe County Jail for endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor.

The sentences will run concurrent, meaning Kennard will serve a maximum of three years in prison, a determinate sentence, said Monroe County Assistant District Attorney Amanda Balling, who prosecuted the case.

The teen was not present in court Thursday, Balling, instead, read a letter penned by the boy in which he described Kennard as "an evil person" and said she threatened him, telling him that her husband would shoot him if he learned of their relationship.

"She stole my innocence from me," he wrote. "I felt imprisoned with no escape."

The crimes spanned from 2010, when the boy was 12 or 13 years old, to 2013.

Irondequoit police said she had sex with the boy, a special-needs student, at least a dozen times in the basement of her home on Walzford Road in Irondequoit.

The boy left East Irondequoit and was home schooled before he transferred to another district.

Dinolfo issued an order of protection for the boy through 2023. Kennard will be required to register as a sex offender and also faces 10 years post-release supervision.

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Includes reporting by staff writer Victoria E. Freile.