

OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tony Palumbo, County Attorney



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August 19, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statutory maximum sentence for former Anoka teacher on sexual conduct charges

Jefferson Fietek pleaded guilty in Anoka County District Court today to three felony counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct. The charges stem from sex acts with three minors while Fietek was a teacher and acting in a position of authority.

Under the plea agreement, which was supported by each victim, Fietek will be sentenced to 360 months in prison – the statutory maximum sentence for first-degree criminal sexual conduct. He will also be required to register as a predatory offender. Sentencing is scheduled for November 17.

The remaining counts against the defendant will be dismissed at sentencing. However, as part of the plea agreement, Fietek admitted to sexual acts with two other victims under questioning by Assistant Anoka County Attorney Beth Beaman in court today.

“This outcome is in the best interest of those involved,” Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo said. “Fietek got the statutory maximum sentence. Given the sensitivity of the victims, coupled with potential extensive legal proceedings, we felt this was the best resolution to benefit the victims and obtain a punishment for the defendant.”

The criminal complaint is attached for reference. Fietek’s plea petition, entered in court today, can be found on the [Minnesota Court Records Online \(MCRO\) website](#) under “Document Search.” The court file number is 02-CR-20-4223.

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2020-01354
Court File No. 02-CR-20-4223

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK DOB: 11/01/1973

35 Wolcott Street, #1
Malden, MA 02148

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Summons

Amended

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(b), with reference to: 609.342.2(a), 609.342.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 12-30 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$12,000.00 - \$40,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/01/2009 to 12/31/2010

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2010, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the complainant is at least 13 years of age but less than 16 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim A.

COUNT II

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(h)(iii), with reference to: 609.342.2(a), 609.342.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 12-30 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$12,000.00 - \$40,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/01/2009 to 12/31/2010

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about January 1, 2009 - December 31, 2010, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the actor has a significant relationship to the complainant who was under 16 years of age at the time of the sexual penetration, and the sexual abuse involved multiple acts committed over an extended period of time, to wit: Victim A

COUNT III

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(b), with reference to: 609.342.2(a), 609.342.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 12-30 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$12,000.00 - \$40,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 05/01/2019 to 07/30/2019

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about May 1, 2019 - July 30, 2019, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the complainant is at least 13 years of age but less than 16 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim B

COUNT IV

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(b), with reference to: 609.342.2(a), 609.342.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 12-30 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$12,000.00 - \$40,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/01/2011 to 04/22/2012

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about June 1, 2011 - April 22, 2012, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the complainant is at least 13 years of age but less than 16 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim C.

COUNT V

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(b), with reference to: 609.343.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 0-25 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$10,500.00 - \$35,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/01/2011 to 09/30/2011

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about June 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual contact with another person, and the complainant is at least 13 but less than 16 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim C.

COUNT VI

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Third Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.344.1(e), with reference to: 609.344.2

Maximum Sentence: 0-15 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$9,000.00 - \$30,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/23/2012 to 04/22/2014

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about April 23, 2012 - April 22, 2014, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the complainant is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim C.

COUNT VII

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Third Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.344.1(e), with reference to: 609.344.2

Maximum Sentence: 0-15 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$9,000.00 - \$30,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 05/28/2014 to 05/27/2016

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about May 28, 2014 - May 27, 2016, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the complainant is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim D.

COUNT VIII

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(b), with reference to: 609.342.2(a), 609.342.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 12-30 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$12,000.00 - \$40,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 09/01/2013 to 08/31/2014

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about September 1, 2013 - August 31, 2014, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the complainant is at least 13 years of age but less than 16 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim E.

COUNT IX

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(b), with reference to: 609.342.2(a), 609.342.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 12-30 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$12,000.00 - \$40,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 09/01/2014 to 08/20/2015

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about September 1, 2014 - August 20, 2015, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the complainant is at least 13 years of age but less than 16 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim E.

COUNT X

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(b), with reference to: 609.342.2(a), 609.342.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 12-30 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$12,000.00 - \$40,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 09/01/2014 to 08/20/2015

Control #(ICR#): 20152283

Charge Description: On or about September 1, 2014 - August 20, 2015, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK, did engage in sexual penetration with another person, and the complainant is at least 13 years of age but less than 16 years of age and the actor is more than 48 months older than the complainant and in a position of authority over the complainant, to wit: Victim E

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On June 25, 2020, the Anoka County Sheriff's Office received a criminal sexual conduct complaint regarding JEFFERSON JEROME FIETEK (DOB: 11/01/1973), Defendant herein, for conduct occurring at several locations within Anoka County. The complainant reported being sexually abused by Defendant while he was a juvenile and Defendant was a teacher at the Fred Moore Middle School, which is now known as Anoka Middle School for the Arts. Anoka County Child Protection made a second referral regarding Defendant sexually abusing a different student that same day. Detective Aker began an investigation in to the reports. During the course of the investigation, at least two additional victims came forward to report abuse by Defendant.

Victim A (DOB: 03/19/95)

Victim A met Defendant in 2006 through the Youth Art's Initiative (YAI), a children's theater group Defendant helped found. Victim A participated in the program until 2009. In 2007, Defendant started making suggestive comments and asking Victim A personal questions. In 2009, when Victim A was fourteen-years-old, Defendant picked Victim A up from his house and brought him to see a musical. Victim A's parents allowed Victim to go with Defendant because they were friendly with Defendant. Defendant brought Victim A back to Defendant's house after the musical because Victim A was spending the night so he could assist with a project the next day. Victim A described Defendant's residence, including the fact that he had a lot of "Peter Pan" and "Muppets" memorabilia. Defendant and Victim A began cuddling, which led to Defendant performing oral sex on Victim A. Defendant told Victim A to make sure "no one knows about this."

Victim A stayed overnight at Defendant's residence again a month or two later. Defendant asked if Victim A wanted to perform oral sex on him. Victim A and Defendant performed oral sex on one another that night and the next morning. Defendant drove Victim home afterwards. Victim A also recalled a later incident where he watched "Peter Pan" with Defendant at his Coon Rapids residence. They were lying on a futon when Defendant asked Victim A if he wanted to try anal intercourse. Victim A described Defendant penetrating him with his penis. It lasted several minutes and was painful.

Victim A attended YAI theater camp in Crow Wing County the first week of July 2009. Defendant and Victim A performed oral sex on each other approximately five times while at the camp. Victim A recalled five additional nights that summer when he stayed overnight at Defendant's house and they "fooled around," meaning they had sex and possibly oral sex the next morning. Victim A's parents knew he was with Defendant, but were under the belief that other theater kids were present. There was an incident in the summer of 2009 where Defendant brought Victim A to the middle school theater after hours and brought him to a dressing room where Victim A and Defendant engaged in oral sex. In 2010, Defendant performed oral sex on Victim A in a park by the border of Washington and Ramsey Counties. When Victim A turned sixteen, Defendant told him he was the age of consent.

Victim B (DOB: 11/20/04)

Victim B met Defendant after Victim B auditioned for a play at the middle school in 6th grade. When Victim B was in 8th grade, Defendant began frequently taking Victim B out to eat or to the movie theater. Defendant also began picking Victim B up from auditions because Victim B's mother was unable to. Defendant would ask Victim B personal questions about what kind of pornography he watched and how often he engaged in sexual activity. One day in April or May 2019, Defendant took Victim B and another juvenile male on a day trip. Victim B and Defendant were sitting on a bench and talking after the other boy wandered away. Defendant told Victim B about a sex toy and told Victim B he could use it to masturbate.

Defendant brought Victim B back to his Coon Rapids residence after dropping the other boy off at home. Defendant gave Victim B the sex toy and told him to use it while he was in the bathroom. Defendant let Victim B use the device five times after that.

Victim B helped Defendant out with housework in early summer 2019 because Defendant was moving away to Massachusetts. Shortly before Defendant moved away, Victim B spent the day with Defendant. While on their way to a store, Defendant explained to Victim B how he helped his friends "get off" and told Victim B that he could do it for Victim B if he ever "needed help." After that, they went to the Mall of America and ate at a restaurant. Afterwards they returned to Defendant's residence where Defendant put his mouth on Victim B's penis. Victim B declined Defendant's later requests to perform oral sex on Victim B. Victim B and Defendant stayed in contact over text and Snapchat after Defendant moved. Defendant requested Victim B provide him nude pictures of himself. Victim B sent pictures twenty to thirty times. Defendant also asked Victim B to send him video of him masturbating. Victim B stopped doing it because he started to "realize that it was kind of weird for a grown man to be asking for a fifteen-year-old's nudes." Victim B expressed that he thought Defendant was a good person and didn't want Defendant to get into trouble.

Aker interviewed Victim B's mother, who said she became friends with Defendant after he began bringing Victim B home from school. Mother thought Defendant was a good influence on Victim B and allowed them to spend time together outside of school. Mother also invited Defendant to her house for dinner. Mother asked Victim B if Defendant abused him after she learned of other allegations regarding Defendant. Victim B initially denied any abuse, but then provided Mother with a similar version of events to what he told Aker. Mother also kept in contact with Defendant after he moved and said that he had purchased an airline ticket for Victim B so that Victim B could fly out to Massachusetts for a week to visit Defendant.

Victim C (DOB: 04/23/96)

Defendant was Victim C's theater teacher while Victim C was in 6th-8th grades at the middle school. Victim C was cast in school theater productions by Defendant. Defendant also recruited Victim C to participate in YAI. Victim C started spending time with Defendant in late 2010 because he wanted Defendant's assistance in drafting an anti-bullying speech to the school board. Defendant would also bring Victim C to places like the Mall of America with his mother's approval. Victim C said he was allowed to hang out with Defendant unsupervised because Victim C's mother respected Defendant as she worked on a charity with Defendant and was assisting in Defendant's political campaign.

In late summer 2011, while fifteen-years-old, Victim C was with Defendant in a vehicle after Defendant told Victim C he wanted to show him something and parked in the secluded parking lot of a Coon Rapids park near Defendant's residence. Defendant took out some lubricant and a sex toy. Defendant had previously told Victim C about the sex toy and described how it worked. Defendant induced Victim C into using the device. Defendant pulled his own penis out and began masturbating while watching Victim C use the device. Defendant placed his hand on Victim C's penis and manually stimulated him.

Victim C went to Defendant's residence in Coon Rapids numerous times before and after the incident at the park. Victim C described Defendant's house has having a lot of movie memorabilia, specifically a large section of "Peter Pan" items. Defendant would bring out the sex toy and watch Victim C use it. Defendant asked if he could perform oral sex on Victim C. Typically Victim C would be at Defendant's house in the living room when Defendant would start playing a pornographic video and perform oral sex on Victim C. Victim C sometimes performed oral sex or manual stimulation on Defendant. The abuse continued until Victim C was eighteen and moved away.

Victim said, "At the time . . . I was special to him you know, and so I wanted to do whatever it was that I

could to make him happy." Victim also recalled Defendant telling him he could never tell anyone about them. Defendant also said, "But even if you did, there is nothing that can be done. You're old enough to consent, right?" Victim C provided Aker with screenshots he received between Defendant and another party where Defendant described Victim C as his "favorite" and discussed performing oral sex on Victim C. Aker later interviewed the person who verified Defendant sent him the texts.

Victim D (DOB: 05/28/99)

Victim D attended the middle school from 6th-8th grades while Defendant was teaching there. Victim D did not take classes from Defendant while he attended. Victim D used the Grindr dating app when he was fourteen. Defendant reached out to Victim D, who did not respond because he thought it was weird because Defendant was a teacher. Victim D went back on Grindr when he was fifteen or sixteen and attending the high school. Defendant contacted Victim D through the app and they eventually agreed to meet up. Victim D met Defendant at the middle school one evening after school was done. Victim D recalled running into some other teachers and Defendant telling them Victim D was there to help him with things for a play. Defendant brought Victim D to an attic area where costumes were stored. Defendant performed oral sex on Victim D. Victim D stayed in contact with Defendant when he was seventeen and eighteen years old. Victim D went to Defendant's house approximately five to seven times where Defendant would perform oral sex on him. Victim D recalled one time he performed oral sex on Defendant. Defendant gave Victim D a sex toy as a present. Defendant also showed Victim D a photo of Victim A and gave a sexual description as a reason he really liked Victim A.

Defendant currently resides in the State of Massachusetts. In addition, Defendant's current address was listed on July 11, 2020 as available for rent effective August 1, 2020. Given the nature and severity of the offenses, the State believes Defendant will not respond to a summons and requests that this Complaint issue as a warrant.

Victim E (DOB: 08/21/1999)

Aker learned of Victim E based on texts he received from another witness showing interactions with Defendant. Defendant included a picture of Victim E in the texts and told the recipient about performing oral sex on Victim E. Victim E attended the middle school between 6th-8th grade. In 2013, while in seventh grade, Defendant was Victim E's theater teacher. Victim E felt Defendant was "touchy-feely" with male students, but he thought of Defendant as a father figure to some of them. Victim E performed in several of Defendant's productions. Defendant wanted to spend time outside of school with Victim E, whose parents thought it was normal because Defendant was "a genuine teacher and...more of like a family friend than anything ..."

Victim E could not recall exact dates, but remembered being assaulted by Defendant three times starting while Victim E was in 7th grade. During the first incident, Victim E and Defendant went to upstairs dressing room storage of the theater after school one day. Victim E recalled a conversation about whether or not there were security cameras in the area. Defendant and Victim E were looking for something when Defendant started making suggestive statements. Defendant eventually asked Victim E if Defendant could perform oral sex on him. Victim E was reluctant, so Defendant told him it was just experimentation. Defendant performed oral sex on Victim E. While doing so, Defendant gave his phone to Victim E with pornography playing on it. Defendant told Victim E that no one could know about it because Defendant would lose his job and reputation if anyone found out. Victim E declined to perform oral sex on Defendant.

Victim E continued to take classes from Defendant in 2014 while he was in 8th grade. One day Defendant brought Victim E to his Coon Rapids residence where Defendant performed oral sex on Victim E while he sat on the couch. Defendant again showed Victim E pornography. The third incident also occurred at

Defendant's residence while Victim was in 8th grade. Defendant performed oral sex on Victim E. Defendant also offered Victim E a sex toy to use. Victim E's description of the device is consistent with that of other victims. Defendant had his pants and underwear off and was masturbating while he performed oral sex. Defendant asked Victim E if he wished to engage in anal sex. Victim E declined. Victim E recalled Defendant again talking to him about not telling anyone or Defendant would get in trouble. Victim E said he did not tell anyone because he thought no one would believe him due to Defendant's reputation and him being an activist for so many students.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Matthew Aker
Detective: CID
13301 Hanson Boulevard NW
Andover, MN 55304
Badge: 240

Electronically Signed:
09/10/2020 04:50 PM
Anoka County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Beth A. Beaman
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-2265
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:
09/10/2020 03:01 PM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM before the above-named court at 2100 Third Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$80,000.00

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: September 11, 2020.

Judicial Officer

Kristin Larson
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 09/11/2020 08:55 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Jefferson Jerome Fietek

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
*I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this
Summons upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: