



PRESS RELEASE

Teacher Sentenced to Prison for Sex with Student January 17, 2020

Bryan, TX – Thomas Rucker, 37, of Bryan, was sentenced to 4 years in prison for Improper Relationship with a Student following a punishment hearing on Friday in the 85th District Court.

In September of 2016, College Station Police Department officers began investigating Thomas Rucker for having an improper relationship with a student. At the time, Thomas Rucker was a Criminal Justice teacher at A&M Consolidated High School. Once the school was made aware of these allegations, the administration removed Rucker from the school, and actively assisted in the investigation.

As the investigation progressed, detectives found that Rucker had engaged in a sexual relationship with one student, and had made advances toward other students.

Rucker would message these students over social media websites and text. This occurred not only during the school day, but also later in the evenings. It was also not uncommon for him to pull students out of class so that he could get them alone.

This investigation began because students made school administrators aware of some of Rucker's inappropriate behavior with students at the school.

Judge Kyle Hawthorne rejected Mr. Rucker's request for probation. When handing down his sentence Judge Hawthorne commented that "it is not a thin line, but it is a brick wall" when it comes to teacher/student relationships.

This case was investigated by the College Station Police Department and prosecuted by Assistant District Attorneys Brian Baker and Cahal McColgan.

"This defendant used his position of authority to prey on high school students. This sentence should stand as a warning to anyone that would ever consider using our schools as a dating pool."

- Brian Baker and Cahal McColgan, Assistant District Attorneys

