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Texas School for the Deaf employee accused of sexually abusing student

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An employee of the Texas School for the Deaf was arrested on Friday and charged with having an improper relationship with a student. Shane Flournoy, a 32-year-old dorm supervisor, told police that a week earlier he had confessed to his minister that he had sexually abused a minor and wanted to turn himself in, according to a police affidavit.

The minister then contacted police officials.

The student told police that Flournoy had repeatedly asked to see his penis in fall 2007. During a visit by the 15-year-old student to Flournoy's apartment in October, Flournoy paid him \$200 to show him his penis while Flournoy's wife was asleep, the student said.

Flournoy inappropriately touched the student before the teen rejected his advances, the student said.

Flournoy told police that he would have had sex with the student had he consented.

Flournoy and the student had known each other for several years; they participated in church activities and deaf community activities together while they lived in Houston. Flournoy moved to Austin and began working at the school in May 2007.

Flournoy recognized the student at the school, and they started going on shopping trips together, the affidavit said. Flournoy also allowed the teen to watch pornography on his computer, Flournoy and the student told police, according to the affidavit.

Flournoy told police that the teen threatened to go to authorities if he was not given money. Flournoy said he paid the student about \$1,000.

After his arrest, Flournoy was fired by the Texas School for Deaf. He was in Travis County Jail on Monday; bail was set at \$250,000.

The school said that it routinely conducts criminal background checks on employees and that Flournoy had no history of convictions or arrests.

Officials said they do not think he had inappropriate relationships with other students.

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In the 1980s, several school employees were charged with sexual abuse of students .

The school has notified parents about the arrest, according to a statement from officials.

The American-Statesman generally does not identify victims of sexual assault.

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