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State Worker Indicted for Sexual Assault, Official Misconduct

TRENTON -- A 28-year-old Willingboro woman employed by the New Jersey Department of Corrections was recently indicted for using her position as a teaching assistant at New Jersey State Prison to engage in an illicit relationship with an inmate.

Janeen L. Gudger, of Willingboro, was indicted on one count of official misconduct and one count of sexual assault. Both are second-degree offenses, each carrying a penalty of five to 10 years in prison.

According to Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr., the state Department of Corrections Special Investigations Division began an investigation in March 2009 after a routine search at the prison turned up handwritten letters between Gudger and the inmate.

The indictment alleges that between October 2008 and March 2009, Gudger was involved in a sexual relationship with an inmate at New Jersey State Prison while she was employed in a supervisory capacity. She is also alleged to have provided false and misleading statements in an effort to mitigate administrative disciplinary charges that were pending against the inmate.

Gudger is free on \$50,000 bail.

Bocchini credited Investigators Raphael Dolce and Victor Sierra of the state Department of Corrections Special Investigations Division with the investigation leading to the charges. Assistant Prosecutor Jennifer Downing, chief of the Child Abuse/Sexual Assault Unit, presented the case to the grand jury.

An indictment is merely an accusation. All persons charged are presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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