

Walled Lake Teacher Accused of Fondling Girl, 8

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WEST BLOOMFIELD, Mich. - Parents in Walled Lake have an uneasy feeling after a teacher in their district was arrested for fondling a girl. He has been charged with criminal sexual conduct.

Concern is rippling through Walnut Creek Middle School after it was discovered a social studies teacher was arrested for fondling an eight-year-old girl.

"You send them to school and you think that they're safe and that the teachers are (role models), and then when you hear that," said Claudia Kizi. "It makes it harder and harder just to trust people."

"He was charged with second-degree sexual conduct. A very serious felony, and it's one of those sad things when you've got somebody this young. Obviously, there's trauma. There's memory. There's lasting implications," said Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard.

54-year-old Larry Konyha teaches sixth grade. FOX 2 was told the alleged victim is not one of his students, but rather an acquaintance, and that the alleged incident did not take place on school grounds.

School officials wouldn't comment on camera about the teacher's arrest, but in a letter to parents Superintendent Dr. William Hamilton said, "We are saddened by this incident. We pride ourselves on providing a safe, comfortable and positive school environment, and we will do everything possible to keep our schools safe."

FOX 2's Ronnie Dahl stopped by Konyha's Commerce Township home where he was arrested on Monday. No one would answer the door.

Guilty or not, his arrest has parents worried that a person in his position may have violated such a sacred trust.

"He shouldn't be around any other kids. It's scary," Kizi said.

A judge agreed. Konyha has been ordered to stay away from anyone under the age of 18, which means he can't teach. For now, the sixth grade social studies teacher has been suspended without pay.