



## PLYMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT

80 Main St., P.O. Box 34, Terryville, CT 06786-0034

Telephone (860) 589-7779, FAX (860) 585-4025

Karen M. Krasicky – Chief of Police



### PRESS RELEASE

Police Arrested

CHRYSTAL COLLINS

DOB [REDACTED] 1963

[REDACTED] Julia Road

Bristol, CT 06010

Charged with

Failure to Report of abuse, neglect or injury of child or imminent risk of serious harm to child

Released on a Promise to Appear

Arraignment at GA-15 in New Britain

Arraignment Date 9/12/2022 at 9:00am

Edman D. Austin

Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police

Plymouth Police Department

80 Main St. Terryville, CT 06786

Phone: 860-585-4020

Fax: 860-845-5548

Email: [eaustin@plymouthct.us](mailto:eaustin@plymouthct.us)



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## PRESS RELEASE

Police Arrested

SHERRI TURNER

DOB [REDACTED] 1962

[REDACTED]  
Farmington, CT 06032

Charged with

Failure to Report of abuse, neglect or injury of child or imminent risk of serious harm to child

Released on a Promise to Appear

Arraignment at GA-15 in New Britain

Arraignment Date 9/7/2022 at 9:00am

MELISSA MORELLI

DOB [REDACTED] 1977

[REDACTED]  
Plymouth, CT 06782

Charged with

Failure to Report of abuse, neglect or injury of child or imminent risk of serious harm to child

Released on a Promise to Appear

Arraignment at GA-15 in New Britain

Arraignment Date 9/7/2022 at 9:00am

Other arrests pending

Edman D. Austin

Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police

Plymouth Police Department

80 Main St. Terryville, CT 06786

Phone: 860-585-4020

Fax: 860-845-5548

Email: [REDACTED]



## Plymouth Police Department

80 Main Street, P.O. Box 34  
Terryville, CT 06786-0034  
Telephone (860)-589-7779  
Fax (860)-585-4025



# Press Release

**For Immediate Release: 01/24/2022 1:00 PM**

On 09/29/2021 the Plymouth Police Department received a complaint against James Eschert, a former teacher at Plymouth Center School. This complaint centered on a report of inappropriate conduct which occurred between Mr. Eschert and several juveniles who were his students at the time of the incidents. This investigation led to an arrest warrant being drafted and signed by the State's Attorney's Office on 01/18/2022. On 01/24/2022, Mr. Eschert surrendered himself to the Plymouth Police Department where he was charged with the following:

Risk of Injury - 5 Counts

Sexual Assault Fourth Degree - 2 Counts

Mr. Eschert was processed and transported to New Britain Superior Court where he is currently being held on a bond of \$350,000.00 which is set by the court.

From the inception of this case, the Plymouth Police Department has spent countless hours conducting interviews, reviewing statements, and preparing court paperwork. This department takes all school threats and the safety and well-being of students earnestly. This case is not closed and is still being investigated. When further information is available, it will be appropriately released.

INFORMATION

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT

Disposition date

JD-CR-71 Rev. 3-11

Police Case number  
**21-6711**

Agency name  
**Plymouth Police Department**

Agency number  
**111**

Title, Allegation and Counts

State of Connecticut vs. (Name of accused)  
**ESCHERT, James**

Residence (Town) of accused  
**Canton**

Docket number

Address  
**CANTON, CT 06019**

Date of birth  
**1971**

The undersigned Prosecuting Authority of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut charges that:

To be held at (Town)  
**New Britain**

Geographical area number  
**15**

Court date

Count One — Did commit the offense of:

**Risk of injury**

Continued to Purpose Reason

At (Town) On or about (Date) In violation of General Statute number  
**Plymouth School year 2019-2020 53-21(a)(2)**

Count Two — Did commit the offense of:

**Risk of injury**

At (Town) On or about (Date) In violation of General Statute number  
**Plymouth School year 2019-2020 53-21(a)(2)**

Count Three — Did commit the offense of:

**Risk of injury**

At (Town) On or about (Date) In violation of General Statute number  
**Plymouth School year 2017-2018 53-21(a)(1)**

See other sheet for additional counts Date **1/18/22** Signed (Prosecuting Authority) **BR**

Court Action

Defendant advised of rights before plea (Judge) (Date) Bond Surety  10 % Election (Date)  Cash  CT  JY  Attorney  Public defender  Guardian Bond change Seized property inventory number

Table with columns: Count, Plea date, Plea, Plea withdrawn Date, New plea, Verdict finding, Fine, Remit, Additional disposition. Rows 1, 2, 3.

Table with columns: Date, Other Court Action, Judge.

Receipt number Cost  IMP  NCI Bond information  Bond forfeited  Forfeiture vacated  Forfeiture vacated and bond reinstated Application fee - receipt number if paid Circle one W I Q Program fee - receipt number if paid Circle one W I Q Probation fee - receipt number if paid Circle one W I Q Prosecutor on original disposition Reporter/monitor on original disposition Signed (Clerk) Signed (Judge)

**INFORMATION**

JD-CR-71 Rev. 3-11


STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT

Disposition date
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Police Case number <b>21-6711</b>	Agency name <b>Plymouth Police Department</b>	Agency number <b>111</b>
Geographical area number <b>15</b>	State of Connecticut vs. <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	

**Additional Counts**

Count Four — Did commit the offense of:			Continued to	Purpose	Reason
<b>Risk of injury</b>					
At (Town) <b>Plymouth</b>	On or about (Date) <b>School year 2017-2018</b>	In violation of General Statute number <b>53-21(a)(2)</b>			
Count Five — Did commit the offense of:					
<b>Sexual assault fourth degree</b>					
At (Town) <b>Plymouth</b>	On or about (Date) <b>School year 2017-2018</b>	In violation of General Statute number <b>53a-73a(a)(1)(A)</b>			
Count Six — Did commit the offense of:					
<b>Sexual assault fourth degree</b>					
At (Town) <b>Plymouth</b>	On or about (Date) <b>School year 2017-2018</b>	In violation of General Statute number <b>53a-73a(a)(6)</b>			
Count Seven — Did commit the offense of:					
<b>Risk of injury</b>					
At (Town) <b>Plymouth</b>	On or about (Date) <b>School year 2016-2017</b>	In violation of General Statute number <b>53-21(a)(2)</b>			
Count Eight — Did commit the offense of:					
At (Town)	On or about (Date)	In violation of General Statute number			

Signed (Prosecuting Authority) 	Printed name of Prosecuting Authority <b>J. P. Prelesky</b>	Date signed <b>1/19/22</b>
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**Additional Court Action**

Count	Plea date	Plea	Plea withdrawn		Verdict finding	Fine	Remit	Additional disposition
			Date	New plea				
4						\$	\$	
5						\$	\$	
6						\$	\$	
7						\$	\$	
8						\$	\$	

**INFORMATION**

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
**SUPERIOR COURT**

Disposition date

JD-CR-71 Rev. 3-11

Police Case number

**21-6711**

Agency name

**Plymouth Police Department**

Agency number

**111**

**Arrest Warrant**

Geographical area number

**15**

**State of Connecticut vs. ESCHERT, James**

To: Any Proper Officer of the State of Connecticut

By Authority of the State of Connecticut, you are hereby commanded to arrest the body of the within-named accused. ("X" all that apply)

- A. Accused is ordered to be brought before a clerk or assistant clerk of the Superior Court.
- B. Accused is not entitled to bail.

If A, B or both are checked above, you shall without undue delay bring the arrested person before the clerk or assistant clerk of the Superior Court for the geographical area where the offense is alleged to have been committed, or if the clerk's office is not open, to a community correctional center within said geographical area, or the nearest community correctional center if no such center exists in the geographical area, or to the Correctional Institution, as the case may be.

- C. Bail set at \$ 350,000
- D. Non-financial conditions of release:

Extradition boundaries established by prosecutor

- E. Conditions of release not determined by court.

<b>By the Court</b>	Signed (Judge of the Superior Court) <i>Keegan</i>	Date <i>1/18/22</i>	Name of Judge (Print or type) <b>KEEGAN</b>
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**Return On Arrest Warrant**

Geographical area number	Town of <i>Plymouth</i>	Date <i>1/24/22</i>	State of Connecticut
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Then and there, by virtue of the within and foregoing complaint and warrant, I arrested the body of the within-named accused and read the same in the hearing of said accused; and have said accused here in court for examination.

Attest (Officer's signature and Department)  
*[Signature]*

Date	Other Court action	Judge



**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64b Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT**  
www.jud.ct.gov

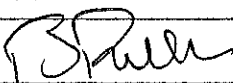
For Court Use Only	
Supporting Affidavits sealed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Police Case number <b>21-6711</b>	Agency name <b>Plymouth Police Department</b>	Agency number <b>111</b>
Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>
		Geographical Area number <b>15</b>

**Application For Arrest Warrant**

To: A Judge of the Superior Court

The undersigned hereby applies for a warrant for the arrest of the above-named accused on the basis of the facts set forth in the:  Affidavit Below.  Affidavit(s) Attached.

Date <b>1/15/22</b>	Signed (Prosecuting authority) 	Type/print name of prosecuting authority <b>B. Preleski</b>
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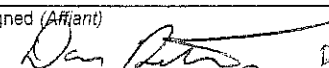
**Affidavit**

The undersigned affiant, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

The undersigned, Detective Damien Bilotto, badge #9, being duly sworn, does depose and state that he is a member of the Plymouth Police Department and has been a police officer since 11/19/2010. He has received specialized training in the investigation of criminal and other matters. At all times mentioned herein he was acting as a member of said department. The following facts and circumstances are stated from personal knowledge and observations as well as information received from other police officers acting in their official capacity and from official police reports and statements made by prudent and credible witnesses.

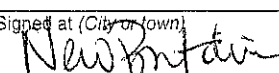
1. This case involves the conduct of a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and his female students. The teacher is identified as James ESCHERT (1971). James Eschert is a 50-year-old white male and taught at the Plymouth Center School located at 107 North Street in Plymouth, Connecticut. He is often referred to by his students as "Mr. E". Mr. E has worked in the Plymouth Public School system since 1998. From 1998 - 2021 he taught both 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade. He had a brief stint in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade in 2021.
2. On September 16, 2021, a report was made to the Department of Children and Families (DCF) by Angela Suffridge, principal of Eli Terry Jr. Middle School.
3. On September 17, 2021, the DCF case was assigned to Alyson Harrison, MSW.
4. According to the DCF report titled "School Report Protocol", written by Alyson Harrison, Principal Suffridge is the initial reporter. Principal Suffridge reported that victim #1 (V1), an -year-old female student, brought her a note that V1 wrote. The written note was about incidents that occurred years ago when V1 was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and her teacher was James Eschert (aka "Mr. E"). V1 is the initial disclosure victim. Principal Suffridge later told Harrison that the reason this all came about is because a boy in the middle school had been body shaming V1 and it brought up memories of the past of Mr. E and experiences V1 had with him.
5. According to the note, V1 stated that Mr. E became strange and was being weird and hugging other students. V1 needed help with math problems and Mr. E came to help her and Mr. E got all weird and started touching V1's thigh and arm. V1 stated that Mr. E tells girls things he shouldn't tell them and then touches them in ways he shouldn't. V1 wrote that they (she and other girls) had to pretend to like Mr. E so he wouldn't get mad at them.
6. According to the note, V1 identifies three additional victims. They are victim #2 (V2), a -year-old female

(This is page 1 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Affiant)  <b>Detective</b>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <b>DET SGT. Bilotto</b>

**Finding**

The foregoing Application for an arrest warrant, and affidavit(s) attached to said Application, having been submitted to and considered by the undersigned, the undersigned finds from said affidavit(s) that there is probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed and that the accused committed it and, therefore, that probable cause exists for the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of the above-named accused.

Date and Signature 	Signed at (City or town) <b>New Britain</b>	On (Date) <b>1/18/22</b>	Signed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <b>Keegan</b>	Name of Judge/Judge Trial Referee <b>KEEGAN</b>
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## ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT

www.jud.ct.gov

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

student, victim #3 (V3), an -year-old female student, and victim #4 (V4), an -year-old female student. According to the note, V1 states that Mr. E would pick her, V2, V3 and V4 to have lunch with him. V1 stated the Mr. E loved these four girls and sometimes they would stay inside with him during recess. V1 stated that the girls would go to the bathroom to get away from Mr. E and they were creeped out by him. V1 stated that she and V2 would go to the principal one to two times a week and the principal did nothing about this behavior by Mr. E. V1 stated that Mr. E told her that she had the perfect body and that she should never eat. V1 stated that Mr. E told the other girls that " 'Wow. You should go work out. You are so overweight. You should be like the skinny girls' ". V1 stated that Mr. E treated the boys differently from the girls and he favored the girls.

7. Principal Suffridge reported that she spoke to V1's mother and V1's mother stated she knew about the note and that Mr. E would often buy V1 gifts like stuffed animals, and she knew about the private lunches and comments Mr. E would make to V1.

8. Principal Suffridge reported that V2 told her she felt uncomfortable around Mr. E and that he favored the four girls and would ask them to stay inside for recess for "Fun Friday". V2 told her that Mr. E's desk was in the back of the classroom and Mr. E would tell the girls that they could sit on his lap if they wanted to. V2 told her that Mr. E would compliment the girls on their outfits. V2 said that one time V1 was writing on the chalk board and her shirt was rising up and Mr. E was staring at her. V2 told her that Mr. E would sometimes play with her hair while they were working on a reading assignment.

9. Principal Suffridge reported that V3 told her that Mr. E would offer to hug her, and she would make excuses to keep him from hugging her. Mr. E asked her to stay inside for recess, but she would make excuses to go outside.

10. On September 17, 2021, Superintendent of Schools, Brian Falcone, was notified by Alyson Harrison via email of the investigation. On September 17, 2021, the State Department of Education was notified by Alyson Harrison via email of the investigation.

11. On September 27, 2021, Harrison spoke with V5's mother over the phone. Victim #5 (V5) is a -year-old female student. V5's mother told Harrison that she has definitely gone to the school a number of times about Mr. E and that these are things the school district has known about for years. She said her daughter spent her entire 4<sup>th</sup> grade in Mr. E's class and would be able to speak to Harrison about Mr. E's behavior with the kids. V5's mother said that nothing reported was ever flagrant enough to be a criminal matter. She said that she took her younger daughter (V5's 10-year-old sister) out of Mr. E's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class when she was put in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and said she didn't want her to have a similar experience with Mr. E as V5 had. She said that V5's sister was in an acting club that Mr. E taught. She said there was an instance where one of the girls had to play Santa in a performance. She said she saw Mr. E belly bump the girl playing Santa. She said she complained to the school about this incident.

12. On September 28, 2021, Harrison again spoke with V5's mother over the phone. V5's mother told Harrison that she spoke to her daughter and her daughter told her so much more that had happened that she was unaware of. V5's mother said that her daughter was upset and crying and thought she would never have to talk about this again but added that V5 will talk about it if it is going to help at all. V5's mother expressed concern that Mr. E has worked all these years in the district with his behaviors and the girls have had no resolution and noted that Mr. E now works with 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. V5's mother said her daughter is willing to be interviewed and would prefer it happen at their residence as opposed to the school. V5's mother said her daughter doesn't want her mother

(This is page 2 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date	January 15, 2022	Signed (Affiant)	<i>[Signature]</i> Detective
Jurat	Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) January 15, 2022	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public)	DET SGT. <i>[Signature]</i>
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	1/18/22
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	1/18/22



**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
 C.G.S. § 54-2a  
 Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
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**Affidavit - Continued**

present during the interview and is requesting to tell it to a stranger. V5's mother then told Harrison that V5 was recalling Mr. E bouncing girls on his lap in a humping motion.

13. On September 29, 2021, Harrison arrived at V5's residence and conducted an interview with V5. V5 requested the interview happen in her bedroom, where she is most comfortable. V5 said that Mr. E was her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She knows he lives in Avon, Connecticut, and he shared this fact with the girls. She said Mr. E was her first male teacher. She said she was not used to Mr. E's classroom setting, noting that rather than arrange his desk in a corner of the room like most teachers do, he had his desk in the middle of the classroom. V5 said it started out with Mr. E favoring four girls. She said Mr. E would give them answers to quizzes and tests and let them sit in chairs on each side of his desk. She said Mr. E would give them hugs which she thought was weird because no other teacher did that with her before. After sitting next to Mr. E's desk for a while he would invite her and the other girls to sit on his lap. While she was on his lap, Mr. E would move her body on his private part. She felt his private part get hard. Mr. E would also ask them to go under his desk and gave them paper to decorate under there. V5 said that while under his desk, Mr. E's private part would be in her face or another girl's face and sometimes he would touch his private part over his clothing. She denied he ever pulled his private part out of his pants for her to see. She said Mr. E would rub her shoulders and touch her breasts over her clothing to check if she was wearing a bra each day or not. She said that on one occasion Mr. E touched her underneath her bra. She said she saw him doing this to other girls too. She said this always happened in the classroom. She said Mr. E would invite them to his house in Avon, noting that they are welcome to dinner if they are ever in the neighborhood. He would tell them that he would take them out for ice cream, but they never went. She said that Mr. E would carry a small camera around and take pictures up the girl's skirts and down their shirts. She said when they did yoga in class, Mr. E would take pictures of the girls in dresses and then give the girls a picture of themselves and keep a picture. She said that Mr. E printed the pictures at Walmart. She noted how she has one picture of herself that Mr. E took, sharing that it was taken in his classroom around Thanksgiving. She talked about how she's always had a lot of anxiety around quiz and test times and how it was difficult for her when she entered 6<sup>th</sup> grade and had a male teacher again. She reported that she was scared and worried the male teacher would do the same thing Mr. E would do. She confirmed that she wants to go to counseling and already talked with her mother and father about this. Harrison informed V5 that she will have to report this to the police. V5 said she knew this was possible and is okay with reporting it to the police. She said she is ready to talk about what has happened and thinks something needs to be done. She said this has gone on too long and she doesn't want any more girls to have to have Mr. E as a teacher. She said that her mother was able to keep her younger sister out of Mr. E's class but her younger sister still had a problem with Mr. E during the acting class after school. Her sister told her how Mr. E had belly bumped her.

14. On September 29, 2021, a complaint was made to the Plymouth Police Department by V5 and V5's mother. V5, her mother and Alyson Harrison came to the Plymouth Police Department. Officer Cyr was assigned to take the initial complaint. V5's mother stated her daughter was touched inappropriately by her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at the Plymouth Center School, James E. Eschert (Mr. E).

15. Officer Cyr spoke with V5, her mother and Harrison. V5 said that the inappropriate behavior started during school year when Mr. E was her teacher for 4<sup>th</sup> grade. V5 said that Mr. E was her only teacher that year as she didn't switch classes or teachers that year. V5 told Officer Cyr the following:

In the beginning of the year Mr. E had his desk in the middle of the classroom with chairs on either side. V5 said

(This is page 3 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date <i>January 15, 2022</i>	Signed (Affiant) <i>[Signature]</i>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <i>January 15, 2022</i>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <i>DET SGT. [Signature]</i>
Reviewed (Prosecutor Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>1/13/22</i>
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>1/18/22</i>

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

that Mr. E typically had her, and three other female classmates sit on either side of the desk. V5 said that she and the three other females were Mr. E's favorites and always received special attention, more than the other children in the classroom. Mr. E started with having the girls sit on his lap during recess or lunch. That progressed to neck and back massages during lunch or recess. V5 said that Mr. E would then have her "decorate" under his desk. While under the desk, V5 stated Mr. E would press his private areas against her face. V5 said that she could feel Mr. E's private areas become increasingly hard. V5 said that during the neck / back massages Mr. E would rub her breasts on the outside of her shirt and would move his hands under her shirt and grope her breasts. V5 said this occurred approximately 15 to 20 times during school. V5 said that Mr. E would take photographs of them using a small digital camera. The camera is described as a red digital camera with silver buttons. Some of the pictures were inappropriate where Mr. E would take pictures under the girl's skirts and down their shirts. V5 said that Mr. E would develop the pictures at Walmart and give the appropriate pictures to the girls and would keep the inappropriate ones for himself. V5 said that Mr. E would always give her and the other three girls more attention than the other children and would routinely give her and the other three more gifts than the other kids. V5 said that Mr. E would regularly give her and the other three girls answers to test questions in advance of or during tests. V5 said that Mr. E told her his home address and invited her over for dinner and ice cream.

16. On September 30, 2021, Officer Cyr met with Plymouth Public Schools Superintendent Brian Falcone. Superintendent Falcone said that when he was made aware of the allegations against Mr. E, he immediately placed him on administrative leave with pay. Officer Cyr advised Superintendent Falcone about the allegations regarding the inappropriate photos and the possibility of a digital camera currently located in Mr. E's classroom. Superintendent Falcone said that a substitute teacher is in that classroom room and that he would look for the camera after class and attempt to locate it and secure it in a safe location.

17. On September 30, 2021, Harrison talked with Plymouth Public Schools Superintendent Brian Falcone. Mr. Falcone stated concern that \_\_\_\_\_ knew about this and did not report, \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Falcone just took the superintendent position this past July 2021. He said it sounds like all of this predates his position and that it has been going on for years. Harrison said Mr. Falcone reported disgust that all of this may have been covered up. He said he had a small role in the district 17 years ago and back then it was rumored that Mr. E gave away standardized test scores. Mr. Falcone noted that somehow Mr. E was only written up for this two years ago.

18. On September 30, 2021, affiant Bilotto was assigned this investigation in the Detective Division.

19. On October 14, 2021, V5 and her mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Sergeant Beiros. V5 said Mr. E would rub their backs to see if they had a bra on. He would touch their breasts with his hands. When he would rub their backs, it would be over the clothes, or he would stick his hands up their shirts. She said Mr. E would ask what color their bra was that day and then check to see what it looked like. It made her feel very uncomfortable. She said Mr. E (4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher) would go to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes to help some of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers and ultimately, he'd choose 4 or 5 girls that he made sure got into his class. She said he would give his 4 favorites the answers to tests. He would buy them gifts. He would not give anyone else the answers. He would have his favorite girls stay inside for recess. She said Mr. E would make comments about their bodies, about eating and about their outfits. She said, "He would pick you up and place you on his lap and he would say 'You can do your work like normal' and he

(This is page 4 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date	January 15, 2022	Signed (Affiant)	[Signature]
Jurat	Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) January 15, 2022	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public)	DET SGT. [Signature]
Reviewed (Prosecutor/Official)	[Signature]	Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee)	Reegan
Date	1/18/22	Date	1/18/22

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
 C.G.S. § 54-2a  
 Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 SUPERIOR COURT**  
 www.jud.ct.gov

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

would hold you and he would rub you on him or he would rub himself on you and he would wrap his arms around you and he wouldn't let you go". She said he favored the girls. With regard to his desk in the classroom, she said Mr. E would give them papers, streamers and decorations and he would call his classroom desk "The cave". She said "We would sit under there drawing...and he would let us do our work underneath there and he would let us decorate it to make it look nice". He would then roll his chair all the way forward so they were "Crammed in there and he would be bumping his hips forward". She said they were stuck under there and he wouldn't let them out until he had something to do. She said sometimes they were under there 15 to 20 minutes. Sometimes less. She said he held a lot of after school clubs at the school. He would try to hug you as you were leaving and rub your back and rub your leg in any way he could. She said he rubbed our legs, our back, and our breasts. He would have yoga time where he would have the whole class get into a circle. He would make students do yoga poses like the "Downward dog" and the "Tree". He had a camera and would take pictures of them doing yoga. If they would wear dresses, he would take pictures up their skirts or down their shirts and he would keep the pictures. He would also take pictures of everything. Of them just doing work or at recess or at acting club. "He would have us do yoga and then take pictures of it. We knew he was taking pics because he had a camera, and it was in his hands all the time." She said it was a rectangular red camera with silver buttons. It had a little screen, and it was small with a black fabric strap. She said she wore dresses. She said he would have them do things that made their dresses ride up and show their underwear. He would bend down and take a picture of under their dress "So he could take a pic of our underwear". He had them do the worm (dance move) when they had dresses on and he would bend down and pretend to be doing something, but he'd be taking pics of under the dresses. She said, "We knew what he was doing". She said it started off at the beginning of the year. She said he would try to make them more comfortable with him and make it feel normal. "He'd try to make it all feel normal". She said, "He told us his house address. He lives in Avon. It was 54-something road in Avon. I used to have it in my memory but I tried to forget about it and get this outta my brain. He told us his address and he said something along the line of if your parents ever wanna bring you to my house I can babysit and watch you and we can have a fun sleepover".

20. On December 10, 2021, V5's mother came back to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. Mom is the mother of V5 and is also the mother of V12. V12 is currently years old and is in grade. Mom said she didn't report anything to school administration regarding V5. Mom said there was an incident with her other daughter V12 that she had reported. Mom said V12 was supposed to have Mr. E as a teacher and mom emailed when V12 was going into 4<sup>th</sup> grade. I asked Mom what her concerns were regarding V12. Mom said V12 was in acting club when she was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. V12 came home one Friday and said to her mom she had an incident with Mr. E that made her feel uncomfortable. V12 said she and her friend were doing a skit. Mom believes it involved Santa Claus. V12's friend had a pillow underneath her belly as part of a costume. V12 and her friend went up to one another and belly bumped each other in a playful manner. Mr. E then went up to V12 and did the same belly bump to her and it made her feel uncomfortable. V12 came home after that and said she wasn't going back to acting club. Mom said that that affected her daughter enough for her to quit acting club. Mom believes it was because a male teacher touched V12. When mom heard this happened to V12, she was upset. This happened on a Friday afternoon and mom was at a dance competition at the casino casually talking to two other moms. One of the moms told her to report it. Mom reported it the following Monday. Mom talked about her other daughter, V5, and said she thought she never had to worry about V5 being taken advantage of because she is the type of person who would come home and tell her mother if something happened. Mom did not know anything that had been

(This is page 5 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Affiant) <i>[Signature]</i> <b>Doherty</b>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <b>DET SGT. [Signature]</b>
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <b>1/18/22</b>
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <b>1/18/22</b>

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT**

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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

happening to V5 at the hands of Mr. E at that point. Mom said V5 didn't realize it until middle school that the things that had happened to her at the hands of Mr. E were not normal. I asked mom about when she reported the V12 incident to . Mom said, "I called her and she said she would have a discussion with him (Mr. E) and V12 didn't go back to acting club after that and I never heard anything". Mom didn't know if there was ever any discussion between Mr. E and . Mom said she assumed that if you call a principal with a concern that it would be addressed. Mom said it probably was naïve of her as a parent. I asked mom how it makes her feel now knowing the detail of V5's experiences with Mr. E. Mom said, "It's really upsetting, and I feel taken advantage of as a parent that I sent my kid to a school...It's supposed to be a safe spot and it wasn't. As a parent you feel like you let your kid down". Mom said that looking back, she remembers a moment when she dropped the girls off at school and the kids were all waiting outside for the doors to open, and Mr. E was the teacher that opened the door and V5's friend was standing at the front of the door and Mr. E hugged her and it was a hug that was just different, and "I completely freaked out on V5 saying if anyone ever touches you ..." Mom now believes that after she freaked out on V5, that V5 was afraid and embarrassed to tell her mom what was occurring at the hands of Mr. E. Mom said they always had discussions about touching and boundaries. Mom said, "Unless my kid is physically hurt or something like that and needs to be supported emotionally like that, if they're very young, but otherwise, that's a boundary that as a parent you set up and it shouldn't be broken down".

21. On September 20, 2021, Harrison spoke with the mother of V1. V1's mother told Harrison that she hopes that V1 told her everything that happened between her and Mr. E and that it is all documented in the note that V1 authored at the initial disclosure to Principal Suffridge.

22. On September 24, 2021, Harrison conducted an interview with V1 at her middle school. V1 reported that Mr. E was her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. V1 described Mr. E as strange and said he touched girls. She said Mr. E would touch the girls' thighs. He would act like he was helping the girls with a math quiz but would touch their thighs and just give them the answer. She said she felt like she didn't learn much in class. She said she is one of the girls Mr. E touched. She said Mr. E never touched her private parts but said that when he touched her thigh, it was close enough to her private part. He would rub her thigh while she did her math problems. She named four girls by name that Mr. E touched the same way. She saw Mr. E touch their arms and legs. She said she never saw him touch their private parts and said she didn't know about that. She said Mr. E would tell her she has the perfect body and should never eat. She said he made comments about one girl, saying she should work out more. That girl moved to . She said she and the other girls would use the bathroom or would go to lunch, and were just happy to get away from Mr. E. She said Mr. E seemed okay at first, but then got worse. She said that she and her friend, V2, told multiple times about Mr. E. She said they would tell about him and how he touched them and how they felt uncomfortable, but the principal never did anything about it. She said Mr. E would offer for the girls to sit on his lap instead of on the floor and would hug the girls. When the kids would go out for recess Mr. E would offer for her and the other girls to stay inside. She said that no guy teacher should hug or touch any girl unless it's something they need in like gym class. She gave examples of acceptable behavior, such as helping to show someone how to do a pushup or pullup, noting leg placement is important at times. She said that high fives would also be okay. She feels that Mr. E should be fired and that 2<sup>nd</sup> graders should especially not be with him. She said that this behavior from Mr. E has been going on for so long and she knows this because an grader (V5) told her that he used to touch her all over and even touched her chest. She said that she thinks Mr. E shouldn't be teaching anymore. She doesn't want any other girls to have to experience the same thing she and her friends did. She said that teachers shouldn't be

(This is page 6 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Affiant) <i>[Signature]</i>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <b>JANUARY 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <b>DET SGT [Signature]</b>
Reviewed (Prosecutor's Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <b>1/13/22</b>
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <b>1/13/22</b>

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT**

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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

favoring genders like Mr. E did. She said that maybe someone will do something because it's stricter in the middle school. She said that none of this was taken seriously before, and Mr. E just kept getting warnings. Harrison noted how articulate and mature she is for a grade student.

23. On December 10, 2021, V1 and her mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. V1 is now years old. She is currently a grade student. She was years old when she had Mr. E as her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. When she started 4<sup>th</sup> grade she said it was fine until a few weeks in when Mr. E started to get (inaudible) of the girls and started really getting hateful of the boys. She said it was really weird. I asked her what she thought of Mr. E now? She said she doesn't really feel anything good about him. She said it's not a good thing that he teaches 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She said, "If he was doing stuff to girls in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, I wonder what he's doing to the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders". She said it's really weird why they would put Mr. E in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade instead of keeping him in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She said she doesn't think he should be a teacher anymore because a lot of people complained about him for the past years. She said a lot of students complained. The students would tell the principal and were told they would work on it but they didn't do anything about it. She said the administrators were She said, "I told". She said she and her friend (V2) went to the office numerous amounts of times. She said it was like once a week they went to the office to report Mr. E was making the girls uncomfortable in class and that "He was touching us inappropriately and we want you to do something about it. But we said that every week and she did nothing about it. She just said, 'We'll work on it.' And she did nothing". She said she told the details and that it just made it worse that did nothing about it. said that she worked together with Mr. E for years. V1 said the old Principal, a lot of people complained to her, but nobody did anything about it. V1 offered the example that usually when a teacher tells you to pay attention or if you ask for help and the teacher was right behind you, they would usually touch your shoulder or your arm, "But he started touching my thigh which was really weird". I asked if she could demonstrate. I could tell she was uncomfortable demonstrating. She quickly put her hand on the outside of her right thigh and performed a quick rubbing motion. She described it as rubbing and more than just a touch. While he was rubbing her thigh, he'd be telling her the answers to a test or quiz. She said he gave mostly girls the answers. She said she saw him rub other girls in the class and named three other girls. She said he made comments about her having the perfect body and she shouldn't be eating. He said that during snack time in class and he told her she shouldn't be eating that and instead she should be having gum, so she didn't get fat. V1 believes this behavior has been going on for 20 years because that's how long he's been teaching. She said she has a male teacher now, a music teacher, and he's fine. She said she never sat on Mr. E's lap but saw other girls do it. I asked her how he would do it? She said he would bribe you. She said he would give them gum if they sat on his lap for a few minutes and he could help them with an assignment question. She said Mr. E allowed some of the girls to stay inside during recess on the condition that they stayed next to him. He wouldn't allow boys to stay in. V1's mother said this all started and came out because of a comment a little boy made to V1 in health class. This body shaming comment caused V1 to reflect on the comments Mr. E made about her body. Her mother said it is now bothering her daughter two years later. Her mother said V1 was at counseling and V1 was body shamed and told she was so skinny she was going to die. After, the boy got in trouble for body shaming her. She told a counselor that Mr. E was touching girls. The counselor had V1 go to the principal and write a note. The principal said she will have V1 write a note so she could show DCF and the Police. V1 said this currently is affecting her personal life. She is more scared of male teachers now. She feels like this is going to happen to girls again. She said he bought girls gifts and used to take girls on "Private lunch" with him in his classroom. She said was definitely Mr. E's

(This is page 7 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date January 15, 2022	Signed (Affiant) <i>[Signature]</i>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) January 15, 2022	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) DET SGT. <i>[Signature]</i>
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 1/18/22
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 1/14/22

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT**

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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

friend. was the principal. She retired a few years ago. I asked V1's mother how she felt about all of this? She said angry, frustrated, sad. V1's mother said she found out more now than she knew two years ago, and she and her husband were already frustrated two years ago with what she was seeing. I asked V1's mother if she notified anyone? She said, "I definitely emailed and called myself". She said she reported Mr. E to that Mr. E is giving her daughter gifts everyday. She said her daughter came home everyday for the first month of school with a gift. She described the gifts as beanie babies or whatever was trendy or current at the time. Mom said Mr. E seemed to know exactly what the girls were into. Mom said Mr. E sent a letter home saying how much he loved V1 and how she was one of his favorite students. Mom said Mr. E knew that V1 was a dancer. Mom said he knew the color of her solo dance costume. V1 said it was like Mr. E was stalking her mom's Facebook page. Mr. E would see V1 in school and tell her "You looked so beautiful in that blue costume on stage. You have such a perfect body". Mom assumed Mr. E looked at her Facebook page because V1 was very quiet and never told Mr. E these things. When the students switched to online learning due to Covid, V1 wouldn't go on to the online meetings. She wouldn't show her face. She used an icon instead. She didn't want to see Mr. E. Mom said she herself did not realize all these experiences her daughter had with Mr. E were bothering her daughter. Mom just thought her daughter didn't want to do online learning. Mom said V1 was starting to have anxiety and started picking her nails until the skin would bleed. Mom said she wondered "What's going on?" Mom said, "We did complain. I personally complained to , and she said 'Listen. I know I've heard rumors. I know the old principal was told and didn't do anything about this. I am going to look into this. I'm a new principal and I'm going to look into this' ". V1 then said said this numerous times and did nothing about it. Mom said she told hat "If this keeps going on I want her moved out of the class". Mom was told by that they can't move anyone out of the class. Mom said told her that she was going to start looking in on them (the students in Mr. E's classroom). Mom said that started casually walking to Mr. E's classroom and started popping in. V1 and mom recounted an earlier conversation they had where Mom asked V1 if was stopping by the class and V1 said Mr. E has been on good behavior because has been stopping in the classroom and surprising him. Mom said Mr. E was on good behavior and stopped his inappropriate behavior and then Covid happened. Mom said was definitely aware (of Mr. E and the allegations against him).

24. On September 16, 2021, V2 disclosed to Principal Suffridge that she felt uncomfortable around Mr. E and that he favored four girls and would ask them to stay inside at recess for "Fun Fridays". She said that Mr. E's desk was at the back of the class and would tell girls that they could sit on his lap if they wanted to. She said that he would compliment the girls on what they were wearing and that onetime V1 was writing on the chalk board and her shirt was rising up and Mr. E was staring at her. She said that Mr. E would play with her hair sometimes when they would be working on a reading assignment.

25. On September 20, 2021, Harrison spoke with V2's mother. V2's mother said that she wants her daughter to be interviewed and that this was investigated at the end of the last school year by the school administration. Her mother said that her daughter talked to her about how Mr. E would have girls sit on his lap. She said she didn't sit on his lap but other girls did. She said Mr. E would play with her hair. She said her daughter and other kids in the class received gifts from Mr. E for Christmas. Some kids got more than others. V2's mother said that her daughter never wanted to go back to school after Covid and remote learning. She said her daughter came out of school in grade and went back part time for grade in . She said this is not the first time she heard concerns about Mr. E, saying that prior classes complained about him. She was concerned about Mr. E

(This is page 8 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Affiant) <i>[Signature]</i>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner) of Superior Court, Notary Public <b>DET SGT. [Signature]</b>
Reviewed (Prosecutor or Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <b>1/18/22</b>
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <b>1/18/22</b>



**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-84a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT**  
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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

being her daughter's primary teacher. She said that \_\_\_\_\_ was the principal at the time the girls were in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She said \_\_\_\_\_ was the acting principal when the girls were in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. She said that \_\_\_\_\_ looked into the matter, but \_\_\_\_\_ is now back at the school. V2's mother said that she is glad it is finally getting some attention from someone outside of the school system.

26. On September 24, 2021, Harrison interviewed V2 at school. V2 said Mr. E was her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher but ended up going to online learning due to Covid. The first half of the year they were in his classroom. The second half they were home. She described Mr. E as weird and said he would do things to the girls. She said Mr. E had his favorite girls. She said his favorites were her, V1, V3 and V4. She said one thing Mr. E did to her and the other girls was hold private reading conferences every week. She said the purpose of the conference was to tell him about the book they were reading. She said that during these reading conferences Mr. E would ask them to sit on his lap and would play with their hair. She said he would ask them to stay inside on 'Fun Fridays' with him, while the paraprofessional was outside with the other kids. She said her friend, V1, was writing on the board once and her shirt was rising up and Mr. E was staring at her. She said Mr. E would also touch their shoulders. She said there were two or three other girls and the rest of the class were boys that Mr. E did nothing to. She denied Mr. E ever touched her private parts. She denied awareness of Mr. E touching the private parts of anyone else. She said she doesn't really remember anything else. V2 said she came forward about this again with V1 because they told \_\_\_\_\_ before, and \_\_\_\_\_ did nothing about it. She said they told Principal Suffridge about it the other day and now maybe something will be done about it.

27. On December 02, 2021, V2 and her mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Sergeant Beiros. V2 is now \_\_\_\_\_ years old. She is currently a \_\_\_\_\_ grade student. She was \_\_\_\_\_ years old when she had Mr. E as her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. V2 said her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mr. E did a lot of weird things. She said he touched them. He touched her on her thigh and on her arms which made her feel awkward. When asked what part of her thigh he touched, she touched the top of her thigh and rubbed it demonstrating how Mr. E did it. She said Mr. E touched her shoulders. She said that they went to remote learning in March during her 4<sup>th</sup> grade year. Prior to going to remote learning in March, she was out the last week leading up to it because she was sick. One of her friends told her it (Mr. E's behavior) got worse in the last week. There was more touching. She said Mr. E also taught an acting club. She described that as weird too. He favorited the girls. He does nothing to the boys. She said he has these favorite girls, and he touches them. He has "Fun Friday" where his favorite girls stayed inside for recess with him and everyone else went outside. Mr. E had reading conferences with girls where a girl was given a reading assignment and she had to tell him about what you read. Mr. E would invite you to sit on his lap while he did it. Only his favorites got to sit on his lap. She said, "I don't remember if I sat on his lap". She described how onetime V1 was writing on the board one day and V1 is short so when she was reaching it caused her stomach to show. She said Mr. E stared at V1's stomach. She said it was weird. She said she, V1, V2 and V4 would go and talk to \_\_\_\_\_ about it, and she didn't really do anything about it. She just listened and didn't do anything about it. "One time when I was online, I got a call from \_\_\_\_\_ and she called my mom and talked to me about it". She said they told \_\_\_\_\_ how weird Mr. E was and "How he touched us. I'm pretty sure she did talk to Mr. E, but nothing changed". She said they got hugs from Mr. E and they were often. She said he would issue tickets to the girls which were redeemable for prizes. Mr. E would hug the girls when they went up to claim their ticket from him. She said Principal Suffridge is the first to actually do something about it. Mr. E would call them pretty a lot. She said it was weird that a male teacher would tell the girls that their shirt was pretty. She

(This is page 9 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Affiant) <i>[Signature]</i>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <b>DET SGT [Signature]</b>
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <b>1/18/22</b>
Date <b>1/18/22</b>	Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <b>Reegan</b>

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

said it *"Made me feel uncomfortable"*. He had a little red camera and took pictures of students. Sometimes he would have someone take a picture of a student with him. His favorites sat close to his desk in the classroom. There were tons of pictures in his class. There were pictures all over the classroom door on the inside. So many that the glass window of the door was covered.

28. V2's mother then came in to be interviewed and V2 waited outside. Mom said her daughter always loved school and then Covid hit, and they went to online learning. She wanted to stay home and never wanted to go back to school. She was in Mr. E's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at that time. She cried when it was time to go back for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Mom looks back and says it was because of what her daughter experienced with Mr. E that she didn't want to go back to school. However, once she left that school and went to 6<sup>th</sup> grade at another school, a new school, she couldn't wait to go. Looking back, she believes her daughter didn't ever want to see Mr. E again. Mom said, *"That really sucks. She missed a whole year of education (5<sup>th</sup> grade). I home schooled her, but it's not the same"*. Mom said none of her daughter's behavior at that time made any sense to her. Two years ago, her daughter started wanting to sleep with her, which she thought was weird because her daughter had always slept by herself. The first day she went to middle school, away from the school where Mr. E taught, her daughter stopped wanting to sleep with her. Mom said things about her daughter that meant nothing to her then, stand out now. She said she now knows her daughter was scared. She said her daughter is not a kid who tells all. She said her daughter told DCF about Mr. E playing with her hair but never told her mother. Mom told her daughter that she can come to her and talk about anything, and her daughter started crying saying that she didn't want to talk about this anymore. Mom said that even today, before this interview, her daughter asked why she has to keep talking about this. Mom said that in the past she was warned because she heard other parents say they didn't want their kids to have Mr. E. Mom said that she and her older daughter attended a Christmas party in Mr. E's classroom and noticed that the girls, not the boys, had tons of gifts. She said it was weird. She attributed Mr. E's behavior to not having any children of his own. She said her daughter didn't say too much to her at that time. Mom said that in the acting club, her daughter said that Mr. E told her that if she keeps practicing with him, she'll have the lead role in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Mom said she had heard that from several kids. She believes Mr. E promised that lead role to everyone and thinks it was a way for him to get the girls to spend time with him. Mom said that

and contacted her and asked her permission to speak with her daughter via Facetime. They told her something had resurfaced about Mr. E. They Facetimed with her daughter and mom said she was right there. Mom said her daughter didn't reveal as much to them as she did now. Mom said her daughter did talk to them about seeing other girls sit on Mr. E's lap. Mom said, *"Then it was gone. Nothing ever happened. Why?"* When mom asked them why, all they said was something had resurfaced. *"They told me they couldn't tell me anymore"*. Mom said she spoke to V3's father. Mom believes that V3, her daughter's friend and classmate, liked the attention from Mr. E. Mom said she talked to other parents at different times and concerns were expressed about Mr. E and their daughters going into his class. Mom said she wasn't aware of the touching at the time between Mr. E and the girls. She didn't know if these were just rumors about Mr. E at that time. Mom said she spoke to a relative of hers who works in a neighboring town's school system. They discussed the Facetime conversation she had, and the allegations of Mr. E, and mom and her relative came to the conclusion that this should have been reported (to DCF). Mom said that they cannot do their own investigation. She said that this should have been reported a long time ago. She said this goes back to

Mom said, *"If this is all coming out now, you're not gonna tell me they were the first kids"*. Mom still doesn't know if more things happened to her daughter at the hands of Mr. E. Mom said her daughter met with the

(This is page 10 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date <i>January 15, 2022</i>	Signed (Affiant) <i>[Signature]</i>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <i>January 15, 2022</i>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <i>DET SGT. [Signature]</i>
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>1/18/22</i>
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>1/18/22</i>

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT**

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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

school social worker and they think it is a good idea for her daughter to have some type of therapy because of this trauma. Mom said that her daughter went to the principal, and it was brushed off. She said and talked to her daughter and it was brushed off. And her daughter went to this school (her new middle school) and Principal Suffridge listened. She said, "The kids feel like somebody actually listened to them". Mom said her daughter was stressed all day about coming to this interview. Mom stated, "How did this go on for so long?" Mom said she read some comment somewhere (cannot recall where) that said Mr. E was golden boy. Mom said V2's dad is shut down about all of this stating he said, "I'm afraid that if I let this be real, I'm gonna kill him (Mr. E) ".

29. On October 04, 2021, Harrison spoke with V6's father. V6 is currently a -year-old student in ' grade who had Mr. E as her 4<sup>th</sup> grade student. Dad said he head heard rumors about Mr. E back when his daughter was getting him as a teacher. He said he was able to be in and around the school a lot back then and never saw anything inappropriate. Dad said his daughter never reported anything inappropriate to him. He said someone else may have been a victim, but he doesn't believe his daughter is a victim.

30. On October 06, 2021, Harrison interviewed V6 at school. She said that one time Mr. E tried to pull her onto his lap. She said that she didn't remember what he was upset about at that time, but they were in the back of the classroom at a table. She said Mr. E was sitting down. She thought it was weird and didn't think it was right. She said it's not something you do in school. She saw him do the same thing to other students. It only happened with female students. She said she thinks he is more attracted to females. She said it seemed to happen to the prettier, popular girls. He invited them and they would sit on his lap. She mentioned 3 other girls by name that this happened to. She said one of the girls wasn't in his 4<sup>th</sup> grade class, but was in an acting club ran by Mr. E. She said Mr. E would have this girl sit on his lap during acting club. She said that when she was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade there was this group of girls called the Fab 5. The Fab 5 were in 4<sup>th</sup> grade with Mr. E. They never had to do any work. She said that one of the Fab 5 told her that she hates Mr. E and told V6 that she would realize when she is older how weird Mr. E is. V6 said there were times Mr. E would invite them to stay inside his class instead of going outside for recess. If they stayed inside, they would hang up posters or use the bathroom. She said Mr. E would give them weird hugs sometimes. She never saw him hug the boys. He gave the boys high fives. She said Mr. E never touched her private parts and denies ever seeing him touch the private parts of any other girls. She said Mr. E did definitely stare at girls and not where their heads were. She said she would catch him doing that. He gave everyone in class stuff out of his prize box and shared food. He let them chew gum in class. She said she didn't think anything was wrong with it until she moved to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. He was her first male teacher. She said as she got older, she started to think what he did was weird. She said kids shouldn't be sitting on his lap. It's not professional.

31. On December 06, 2021, V6 and her father came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. Her father waited in the lobby while V6 was interviewed. V6 is now years old. She is currently an . grade student. She had Mr. E as her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She said Mr. E seemed at first like a really nice, cool teacher. He would give them benefits like chewing gum or let them sit where they wanted, such as on the floor on the rug. She said they could even sit at Mr. E's desk. They got to do acting and have debates in his class. It seemed like a fun class to her. Mr. E never really did anything with the boys. She said she kind of distanced herself from him. But she added she does that with every teacher. She said, "I saw some girls sit on his lap". She said it didn't seem professional. She said, "I heard that girls in upper grades have done it (sat on his lap)". She said that "Everyone kind of normalized it a little".

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**Affidavit - Continued**

Girls in the upper grades said that it wasn't right. But girls in her grade didn't know because after a while it became normalized. She said once Mr. E tried to get her to sit on his lap. She said she was a little upset that day but doesn't remember what she was upset about. She said Mr. E tried to pull her and she pulled away from him. He then backed off. She then distanced herself from him. She said he let some girls stay inside for recess. Never the boys. The more popular girls stayed inside with him. He took pictures with a red camera. He would go to Walmart and print them out. She said one girl did gymnastics outside and Mr. E would watch her. She never saw him take any weird pictures. She said Mr. E would stare at some girls down below (private area). Mr. E was her first male teacher. She said the male teachers she has now are really nice and would never do anything like that. Thinking back about Mr. E, she said he was definitely a strange person. He gave her hugs and hugged some other girls. She demonstrated the hug. She saw one girl sit under Mr. E's desk one time and added that Mr. E wasn't there. When she talked to the older girl in the Fab 5, that girl told her Mr. E is definitely a weird person and that she needed to watch out for him. She said the whole Fab 5 group, once they were in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, said she needed to watch out for Mr. E. Once the Fab 5 got into middle school, they were now talking so much trash about Mr. E. She said, "We (4<sup>th</sup> graders) had no idea". She said it is weird and not professional for a girl to sit on a male teacher's lap. She never saw another teacher have a student sit on their lap. She said her dad knew about Mr. E. Her brother had Mr. E. She said word of Mr. E was going around the school a lot. Her dad had prepared her and told her that "If a teacher tries to get you to sit on his lap, you don't do it. It's not right". She said it does affect her now and she keeps her guard up.

32. On September 24, 2021, Harrison interviewed V3 at school. She said that Mr. E was her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, and he was really nice to her. He was very nice to everyone. She denied that there was anything that Mr. E did that made her feel uncomfortable. She said he would give hugs to the kids and he tried to side hug her. She never saw anyone sit on his lap and she said she never sat on his lap. She heard about this a year or two before she had him as a teacher. She said she was friends with Mr. E. He would give her high fives and say hi to her. She denied Mr. E ever touched her private parts. She denied knowing if he ever touched anyone else's private parts. Sometimes Mr. E would want her to stay inside. She didn't care as long as she was with her best friend (V2). Mr. E was her first male teacher.

33. On December 07, 2021, V3 and her grandfather came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. Her grandfather waited in the lobby while V3 was interviewed. V3 is now -years old. She is currently a grade student. She had Mr. E as her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She said she knows why she is here today. I asked her to tell me a little about her class with Mr. E. She said, "I don't really remember it that well because it was 4<sup>th</sup> grade". She said she seen Mr. E give hugs and that's it. I asked her if he hugged boy or girls. She said, "I don't really remember that well". I asked her if Mr. E ever gave her a hug. She said, "I don't remember". She said she doesn't like hugs. She only will let her family or close friends hug her. I asked her how she'd feel if a teacher hugged her. She said she'd feel uncomfortable even if it was a girl teacher. She said there were a lot of rumors of girls sitting on his lap, but she never saw it. She heard about girls sitting on his lap before she got to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She said he took a lot of pictures and she thought it was cool that he posted them in class. Mr. E was her first male teacher. None of her current male teachers did things that Mr. E did. I asked her what she'd think if her current male teachers did anything Mr. E did and she said, "I need to get out of this class". She said she felt uncomfortable staying inside Mr. E's class for recess. Mr. E would try to have one or two girls stay inside his class during recess. She said no one would stay back with him. She said she wouldn't stay inside with him during recess. He asked her to stay inside once because she was

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**Affidavit - Continued**

struggling with her assignment about writing about a book she read. She said he helped her through it. She made sure everyone was around when he helped her. He allowed them to sit under their own desks to do work. He let them sit wherever they wanted. She said the only time someone went under his desk was during hide and seek. She said her mother was confused when she found out about these allegations "Because he was very sweet to my mother and a lot of other parents... And my father, I don't even think he knows about it because I don't talk to my father much". I asked her how she thinks now while looking back at it now that she's a little older. She said, "To think about it, it's just unbelievable for me because when I was in his class, I would never think of it". She said stuff that stuck out to her then, she just didn't do. She said she was scared. She said she was afraid. She said, "I don't really know". She said schoolwork now is stressful. It's hard for her to keep up. V3 seemed very nervous, uncomfortable, and reluctant to discuss things she experienced. She seemed guarded and presented as if she was hiding things. It is important to note that V3 and V2 were friends. V2's mother believes that V3 liked the attention from Mr. E. Understanding this, based on my training and experience, a young girl who has no relationship with her father may seek attention from another male, which fills in that void. Mr. E may have taken advantage of V3 in that she had no relation with her father.

34. On December 07, 2021, V8 and her mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. Her mother waited in the lobby while V8 was interviewed. V8 is now -years old. She is currently a in Highschool in an adjacent town. She had Mr. E as her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She said it was like years ago and she doesn't remember much. She said, "I remember I was so young. I didn't know any better. But I do remember him touching us, putting us on his lap. It was just very weird". I asked her how he would get her on his lap. She said, "He would pull us". She said they'd be just standing there, and he would just pull them. She recalls Mr. E taking pictures with a red camera and putting the developed pictures on the classroom wall. She said that when she and the other girls sat on Mr. E's lap, they saw him as another parent figure and she said, "We were so young. We didn't know any better". She said he didn't treat the boys like that. She said that when she sat on his lap, she'd just sit there. She said Mr. E did this to a bunch of her friends. Certain girls would stay inside his class for recess or stay after for lunch. During this time, they would just talk or do work. She said Mr. E would touch her hair and other girls' hair and twirl it. Mr. E touched their hair while they were sitting at their desks. She said Mr. E would rub their shoulders. He would use one hand to rub their shoulders. Mr. E would come up to them and engage them in what they were doing and then rub their shoulders. She said she felt uncomfortable but didn't think much of it. She said that this behavior by Mr. E just seemed normal. Mr. E was her first male teacher. She has had male teachers since then. I asked her if those male teachers did anything remotely similar to what Mr. E did and she laughed out loud and said, "No". I asked her what she would do now if that happened to her. She said she'd tell her parents and get them involved. I asked her to think back now about what she experienced in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and she said, "It was super weird. I don't blame my younger self for thinking that it was normal". She said Mr. E used to give out test answers to the girls. Not the boys. She and four other girls made up the name and called themselves the Fab 5. She did not recall Mr. E doing yoga classes but remembers having students do the worm dance move. He was always taking pictures. One time she remembers her friend wearing a dress and Mr. E told her friend he wanted to take a picture of her. V8 said her friend looked uncomfortable after Mr. E requested to take a picture of her in a dress. She said her friends still talk about it now, saying how weird 4<sup>th</sup> grade was. She said, "We are just realizing now how wrong that was and how uncomfortable we all were. Even the boys in my class were like that was so weird". I asked her if Mr. E ever touched her thigh(s). She said, "Yeah. While I was sitting on his lap". I asked her to demonstrate. She used her left hand and touched the inside of her left thigh and rubbed it back and

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**Affidavit - Continued**

forth from the direction of her knee to her hip. She said Mr. E would keep his hand there and rub back and forth. I asked her how it made her feel now just showing me and she said uncomfortable. I asked her what she thinks of all this now and she said, "I think he's finally getting what he deserved". She feels bad for the girls who had Mr. E recently that they had to go through this. She said it is nice to have her cousin (V7) to talk to. They have been sharing experiences and stuff that happened to them and how uncomfortable it made them. She said her cousin is older now and now realizes it. I asked her how her mother feels about this. She said, "She didn't know anything was going on because we never told her anything or told our parents anything because we thought it was normal and we didn't know that it was wrong".

35. On December 07, 2021, V7 and her mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. V7 is now -years old. She is currently in grade. She had Mr. E as her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. V7 said that other members of her family had Mr. E, but she never knew what he had done. I asked her when she first heard about any of this. She said, "I never really heard about it. I just experienced it". I asked her if she experienced it herself. She said, "Yes" (nods head yes). She described starting class with Mr. E. The first couple days Mr. E seemed really nice. "Once he got more comfortable with us, he started physically touching us". She described the touching as not appropriate. "He started playing with our hair and rubbing our backs". Mr. E would stand behind or beside them and twirl their hair (she demonstrated the twirling). She said one time she went up to sharpen her pencil and Mr. E was sitting there talking to other girls. Mr. E then grabbed V7's knee and pulled her onto his lap. She said she was sitting on his lap. She said, "I tried to pull away, but he wouldn't let me". I asked her if it was forceful? Like a grab? She said, "A little bit". She stayed on his lap for a minute or two. I asked her if he kept her there physically. She nodded her head yes. I asked her how it made her feel. She said a little uncomfortable. I asked her if she ever saw him do this to other girls before. She shook her head no and said not the same exact thing, but she saw him do something else but said she forgot exactly what it was he did. I asked her specifically, "Do you know what it was, and you do not want to say it? Does it make you feel uncomfortable?" She cut me off and said, "I don't know what it was". She said she knew that some people went to the principal and told their parents, and their parents then went to the principal. People told the principal about Mr. E, but the principal did nothing. She said the principal was . V7 said she sat on Mr. E's lap one time and that was because he pulled her there. Some girls stayed inside for recess and Mr. E would give them ingredients to make slime. He wouldn't do anything with the boys. She said all the girls were his favorites, except for the smart girls. She said, "Me and my friend (V9) were about to switch classes when it got really bad, when we actually realized what was going on, but we couldn't because it was the end of the year". I asked her to describe "really bad". She said she needed to rephrase that to "uncomfortable". I asked her to describe Mr. E's behavior. She said it was really weird and uncomfortable and said, "I don't understand why he did that". She had a male teacher for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade prior to having Mr. E. When asked if she ever saw this type of behavior with this male teacher and she shook her head back and forth emphatically and said no. She has had male teachers since Mr. E and none of them make people sit on their lap or hug people. She never saw Mr. E hug anyone. She said Mr. E made her and her friend do the worm (dance move). She thinks that she was wearing leggings and a shirt when she did the worm. V7's mom is the sister of V8's mom. Mom said her oldest daughter and V8's older sister had Mr. E. Mom said, "They always said he was a creep". Mom said nobody ever put anything past that though. Mom said Mr. E was quirky, weird, and different. V7 interrupted, "He's a pervert". Mom remembers her daughter getting a lot of pictures from Mr. E. Mom and her friend always asked the girls if Mr. E ever touched them. The girls said no. Mom said years went on and then her daughter (V7) got Mr. E. Mom said things in the beginning of the year were cool. Mom

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said her daughter would then come home and tell her things. Mom said she thought Mr. E was a cool teacher. Mom said she just thought from years past that Mr. E was just a cool teacher that everybody wanted, and he loved the girls. But never anything more than that until V7 got him as a teacher. Mom said that V7 came home one day and told her that Mr. E pulled her on his lap. Mom said, "She told me 'Mom, I went up to sharpen my pencil and a really weird thing happened today at school. Mr. E pulled me on his lap' ". Mom asked her was he joking around? Did he hold you? What happened? Mom said she was being naïve and now is kicking herself after realizing what had happened to her daughter. Mom said V10's mom went to the principal and made a big to do about it. Mom said V10's mom went to Mom said she thinks she made a phone call back then to Mom said she recalls talking to about Mr. E, asking her what's going on. Mom said she remembers the conversation but cannot recall if it was in person or over the phone. Mom said she lived on the next street from the school and was there a lot picking her daughter up so she can't recall if the conversation with was in person or via phone. Mom said she asked , "What's going on with Mr. E?" V7 said that Mr. E told them answers to a standardized test and once found out, they had to retake the test. She said he gave the answers to some girls and Mr. E was behind her watching her take the test. Mom said she has no correspondence or emails documenting her conversation with She said she should have in hindsight. Mom said this is super eye-opening. V7 said that a group of girls, including V9 and V10, went to Mrs. Collins as a group. V7 said, "When she was in her office, we talked about it, and she's like 'Thanks for your information. I'll try to do something about it' ". I asked her if she remembers what was said to V7 said they talked about being uncomfortable and wanting to switch classes because Mr. E was doing something they didn't like. Mom said that's why she herself didn't pursue it more because she knew the group of girls went to report it to the principal. I asked V7 what answer was. V7 said told them, "Thank you for letting me know. I'll try to do something about it. I'll try and fix it ". I asked her if she thought did anything about it. She said, "She might have talked to him. But I don't think he listened". Mom is upset with herself. Mom questioned why she didn't do something. Mom said, "I let this go on". Mom said looking back now its gross. Mom said Mr. E is sick. Mom said, "It's sickening that this was let go because I know for a fact that multiple parents have contacted and she has done nothing". V7 described a time when she saw a girl getting her back rubbed by Mr. E and V7 saw the look in the girl's face, how uncomfortable she was. So V7 tried to help her get away from Mr. E by calling the girl over pretending she needed her to do something. Mom said at 9 or 10 years old, they don't know any better. Mom said the kids felt that their complaints were falling on deaf ears. V7 said she thought Mr. E was then moved to teach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She expressed concern to her friends saying, "What is he gonna do to those students? I feel bad for them. They don't know any better". Mom said she is blown away by the magnitude of this and the detail in everything that's been coming out. Mom said she's surprised because she's had Facebook message conversations with Mr. E and he seemed so friendly. Mom said, "I was completely manipulated".

36. On December 14, 2021, V9 and her mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. V9 is now years old. She is currently in grade. She had Mr. E as her 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. Mom said V9 is really nervous being here today. Mom said her oldest daughter, now 21 years old, was afraid she was gonna get Mr. E but the schools redistricted and they moved. Mom said there are more girls but V9 told her they are too afraid to come forward. V9 said her friends maybe don't want to be involved or may not want to talk about it. Mom said, "I made a complaint when V9 was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and it just got brushed under the rug". Mom is glad this is happening now and that her daughter is brave enough to talk about it. Mom wanted it taken care of back then. Mom doesn't want to keep pressing her

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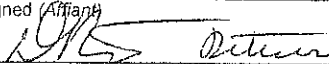
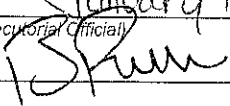
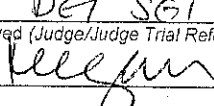
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**Affidavit - Continued**

daughter but as the months keep going on, her daughter keeps telling her more things she remembers or that she's getting more comfortable telling her mother. I asked V9 if she remembered when she first started class with Mr. E. She said in the beginning Mr. E wasn't really weird, but as the year went on it got weird. V9 said Mr. E favored the girls and treated them differently from the boys. V9 said, "With me he would grab my legs and pull me in and make me sit on his lap and he would play with my hair and get in my face all the time". I asked her what he did with her hair. V9 said Mr. E would twirl her hair and demonstrated by running her hand down the length of her hair. I asked her when she sat on his lap would Mr. E hold her tight. She said kind of. She would try to get up, but Mr. E would pull her. I asked her if he did anything while she was on his lap. She said Mr. E would move his leg up and down (She uncomfortably demonstrated). She said it made her feel weird. Mom asked her where she sat on his lap and asked was it on her lower thigh or farther back. V9 answered and touched towards her groin area demonstrating where she was when she sat on his lap. When asked if she felt Mr. E's private parts while this happened, she said not really and said she didn't think much of it then. When asked how many times this happened, she said throughout the whole year. She said she saw Mr. E do this to other girls. V9 was hesitant in answering me and mom assured her she could trust me. V9 said, "Some of my friends I saw him do it to". She named three other girls (One of which was V7). V9 described how Mr. E would grab her waist and pull her closer and then move his hands up her sides (She demonstrated by moving both her hands quickly from her hip up toward her shoulder). I asked her what she thought he was trying to do. She said, "I don't know but it was really weird". She didn't know exactly how long she sat on his lap but said, "I eventually got out. But it was weird". She said girls would go under Mr. E's desk and sit there. Mr. E would just sit in front of them while they were under his desk. She said it was weird. She said they would do things like coloring while under his desk. Sometimes there would be as many as three girls under his desk. I asked her if she was able to get out from under his desk. She said, "Not really". Mr. E was blocking the way. Sometimes his legs and knees would touch them under the desk. She said she'd just focus on her friends while she was under his desk. She said she stayed under there for kind of a long time. She was unable to determine how long. I asked her if she knew about another girl who had a paper under there referring to under Mr. E's desk as her cave. V9 said, "Yeah. I can't remember her name now". She said it was something like, "cave" or something. I asked her if it was V5. She said maybe. I asked her about that drawing and asked if it had a rainbow. She said yes. V9 ultimately described the drawing referencing a cave (Exhibit #6). Mr. E let a couple of girls stay inside for recess. Not the boys. She said Mr. E had a camera and took a lot of pictures. Mom said V9 also had Mr. E for sports club and acting club. In acting club, V9 saw Mr. E go close up to girls. I asked her if it was a hug and she said yes. V9 said no other teachers she had made her sit on their lap or hugged her. She never did yoga in his class but said Mr. E would do yoga and try to get the girls to do it, but they didn't. Mom said that the thing that started the uncomfortableness from mom and dad's standpoint was Mr. E would send home letters about V9. Mom said that she herself, being a teacher, is more in tune with what's appropriate and what's not. The things Mr. E was writing, raving about V9 and how phenomenal she was, she's one of a kind, a superstar. Mom said the first letter she got she thought was great. But they were getting weirder and weirder. Mom asked her coworkers and family if this was weird or okay because it was her daughter. The response she received was it wasn't normal. Mom said she believes this was an effort by Mr. E to get V9's trust as well as mom and dad's trust. Mom said what parent is going to make a complaint against a teacher who is raving about their child. Mom knew there was something wrong when V9 said Mr. E sits in her seat and plays with her hair. Mom said, "I was reassured". Mom said she can't recall if she sent an email from her work or personal email and her personal email has changed several times. Mom said she thinks she just made a phone call where she said she wanted to make an appointment and speak with the principal. Mom said the principal, \_\_\_\_\_, called her back.

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Date <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Affiant) 
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <b>January 15, 2022</b>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <b>DET SGT [Signature]</b>
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official) 	Date <b>1/18/22</b>
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) 	Date <b>1/18/22</b>

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT**

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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

was the principal at the time. V9 said the next day, after her mom called the principal, [redacted] had V9 come to the office to talk about it. V9 said [redacted] told her she'd do something about it, but the next year [redacted] was gone, and Mr. E was still there. I asked mom to recall her first attempt to make a complaint and she reiterated that she can't recall if it was an email or a phone call. Mom said the secretary did call her back to schedule a phone call from [redacted]. Mom said [redacted] called her and explained to her that that's just the way Mr. E teaches. That's his nature. He's a great teacher. Mom said, "But she did say something I will always remember, 'A few other parents have made similar comments that you're making but I told them, I'm gonna tell you, It's just...he's a phenomenal teacher. That's his way of teaching. I reassure you everything is fine. But I will look into it' ". Mom said she was pissed. At the time of this complaint Mom knew that her daughter would get up to hand in a test and Mr. E would go sit in her daughter's seat and would not get up. Mom knew Mr. E played with her daughter's hair. Mom said after her daughter became more comfortable telling her things, she started telling her mom about sitting on Mr. E's lap and Mr. E grabbing her waist and pulling her in and caressing her and then sitting under Mr. E's desk and all. Mom said this November of 2021 is when shit hit the fan. She started hearing about the behavior of a teacher and she said to herself, without knowing the name of the teacher, it has to be Mr. E. Once she found out a teacher was being investigated, she knew it had to be Mr. E based on her and her daughter's past experiences. Once mom heard it was Mr. E, she went right to Board of Ed member [redacted] and said her daughter was a victim of Mr. E and asked what she needed to do. She said the thing that makes her most furious is, her 21-year-old daughter, when she was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, Mr. E approached her and a couple of her friends several times saying, " 'I want you, you and you are gonna be in my class next year' ". V9 interrupted and said Mr. E did that to her too. V9 said Mr. E told her, " 'I'm gonna make sure you're in my class next year' ". Mom said her 21-year-old daughter came home and told her Mr. E said she's going to be in his class next year and she said she didn't want to be in his class. Her 21-year-old daughter did not ultimately get Mr. E and was relieved. But some of her friends did. He picked the girls he wanted. Mom said what angers her is that she knows her complaint against Mr. E wasn't the first one because [redacted] told her that she wasn't the first person to say something about Mr. E. So, [redacted] knew that parents were having these complaints about Mr. E. Mom said [redacted] knew he was handpicking these girls to be in his class. Mom said [redacted] was putting these kids in that position knowing that something wasn't right because why is he handpicking only girls. "Why are you allowing that?" Mom said she is currently a teacher, and she can't pick the kids she wants in her classroom. Mom said if complaints are being made by female student's parents, why are you allowing Mr. E to handpick these girls? Mom said now you are knowingly putting them in this situation. Mom said either [redacted] was turning a blind eye or was ignorant to the situation. Mom said V9 was definitely chosen by Mr. E and picked out of the crowd by him, with a couple of her friends. Mom said Mr. E handpicked her two daughters, but not her son. V9 said Mr. E would buy gifts for them and give them the gifts every single Friday. Mom said she wasn't really aware of the gifts. She just remembers V9 coming home with slime a couple times. V9 said it was every Friday that she got a gift from Mr. E and she didn't tell her mom because she thought it was just normal. Mom then asked V9 if she ever saw any of Mr. E's body parts. V9 said no. Just his chest. She said Mr. E would unbutton his shirt because he was hot. She said you would just see his really hairy chest. Mom said that at the time her daughter was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade with Mr. E, V9 turned into a completely different girl at home. Mom said V9 was throwing tantrums, was very angry, was violent, and it came out of nowhere. Mom and dad almost put V9 in therapy. This behavior was when V9 was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and continued through the Summer until V9 started 5<sup>th</sup> grade. They didn't know why she was acting like this. They tried to talk to her, but she just got angry. Mom said they were out to dinner and V9's brother touched her when seated next to her and V9 got angry, and they had to leave the restaurant. Mom said V9 was never like that

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**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
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**Affidavit - Continued**

before and has not been like that since. This began while V9 was a student of Mr. E and ended when she began 5<sup>th</sup> grade and left Mr. E's class. Mom said that V9 would tell her that she didn't know why she was doing these things and just felt angry sometimes. Mom hugged V9 at the conclusion of the interview and told her she is very sorry that she had to go through this and said that her and her dad are very proud of her. V9 didn't want her dad here at the interview because she didn't want to talk about this in front of her dad.

37. On December 15, 2021, V13's mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. Mom is the mother of V13. V13 is currently years old. Mom said her daughter never had Mr. E as a teacher. V13 was friends with girls who had Mr. E. Mom said her daughter came to her in 2021 and said, "Can I tell you something". V13 told her mom that a couple of her friends had Mr. E and he'd make them sit on his lap and he'd bribe them with candy. Mom said that made her feel uncomfortable and said that's disgusting. Mom said the next day she called the school and asked to speak to the Mom spoke to via phone. Mom told that V13 told her that friends of V13 said Mr. E has girls sit on his lap. Mom reported that said she will speak to V13 and the girls herself and see what happened. Mom reported that told her that this has to be a misunderstanding. Mom said that statement was made before even heard it in its entirety. Mom had the feeling that already knew about Mr. E. Mom told that after she speaks to the kids, she would like to call her back so she could know what happened. Mom said spoke to the kids and then called mom back within an hour or so. Mom reported told her that she spoke to all the girls and V13 and she just believes it's a misunderstanding. Mom voiced her displeasure at that conclusion of it being a misunderstanding asking if it was because the girls are young and only 4<sup>th</sup> graders. Mom said these aren't kindergarten kids. Mom said when V13 was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade she wanted Mr. E as a teacher because she heard from the previous 4<sup>th</sup> graders that he would give out candy. Mom said to "A child sitting on a man's lap is not a misunderstanding, especially in school". Mom told she will speak to V13 when she comes home. After mom spoke with V13, mom felt like tried to get the kids to say it was a misunderstanding. V13 told mom that she was trying to explain to what the girls had told her had happened. V13 said talked most of the time and seemed to be trying to get V13 to believe she herself was confused. Mom said made the kids feel like it didn't happen, as if they were confused. V13 told her mom that said that they shouldn't say things about Mr. E that aren't true. Mom said V13 felt as if she was being talked over and wasn't allowed to say what she wanted to say. Mom said she now sees girls on social media who are now 20 years old who are saying Mr. E did things to them. Mom said she wrote an email to and that responded by saying she will forward it to someone who's involved in this. Mom said Ok. Mom recalled something V13 said about another teacher, Mom said is the best teacher at that school. Mom reported that V13 told her that something was wrong because doesn't want anything to do with Mr. E, and that never liked Mr. E. Mom said was V13's 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher and wouldn't want the girls to go near Mr. E. Mom said she had a conversation with Mr. E at a 4<sup>th</sup> grade open house and thought he was a decent teacher. Mom said her daughter was 9 years old at the time. Mom thinks her daughter knew about Mr. E for a while, but V13's friends told V13 not to tell. Mom said that what made V13 come forward and tell her what Mr. E did was when V13 discovered Mr. E was going to teach 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, so V13 told her mom, "What's sad is he's gonna go to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and they're 2<sup>nd</sup> graders and they don't know". Mom said she told that if Mr. E leaves or resigns and goes to teach somewhere else, that she is going to write them to make sure he doesn't teach. Mom asked me how was it that this was not looked into the first time somebody complained? Mom told

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**Affidavit - Continued**

V13 to encourage V13's friends to tell their parents. Mom said she didn't trust Mrs. Holleran and that told her that Mr. E is her friend, and she knows him. Mom said \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't know him just because she works with him. Mom believes that this was covered up by the school for years as she has seen so many comments indicating that on social media. Mom believes that at the time, the girls didn't know they were being victimized. But they know as they get older. Mom said \_\_\_\_\_ should never be able to teach again. Mom said she had asked \_\_\_\_\_ if she had kids of her own and \_\_\_\_\_ said she did. Mom then said she asked her if she could imagine somebody saying that to you about your kid. She said \_\_\_\_\_ responded by saying she understands, but Mr. E is a good person. Mom got upset during this part of the interview, exclaiming, "You don't know that!" Mom said how does \_\_\_\_\_ know that Mr. E is a good person? She just works with him. She doesn't know what he does outside of work. Mom said \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't even know what Mr. E does in his own classroom. Mom said she is disgusted.

38. On January 08, 2022, V11 and her mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. V11 is currently \_\_\_\_\_ years old and a \_\_\_\_\_ in high school. V11 said she had Mr. E in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She said that when she was in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Mr. E was a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, and Mr. E would walk her to the bus and told her he was moving to 4<sup>th</sup> grade so she would have to wait another year to have him, and he was upset about this. V11 said Mr. E kept telling her that she was going to be in his class. She said she wanted to have him as a teacher because he was always nice and always talked to her. In the beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> grade, she said Mr. E would touch her hair and other girls' hair and make them sit on his lap. She described it as her sitting at her desk and Mr. E would come up behind her and tell her that her hair is so nice, and he would then rub his hands through it. She demonstrated this on her mother. She said, "I didn't really think anything of it because I didn't know. I just thought he was being nice". I asked her how sitting on his lap started. She said, "I would be standing up and he would grab our hip and pull us on his lap". She said, "I didn't care. I was used to it". She said it was normal to her at that point. She said she was in a group of Mr. E's favorite girls called the Fab 5. Mom said her daughter thought Mr. E was the greatest teacher in the whole world. V11 said she called Mr. E her best friend. I asked her what she liked about him and what made her comfortable around him. She said he told her how good of a student she was and helped her on tests. He gave her the answers if she was struggling. She now says that was cheating. Mom then handed me a letter that she saved that Mr. E wrote to V11. The letter raves about V11, at one point it is written "There is not a single day this year that I have not looked forward to seeing you, and I am counting on still seeing you as much as possible next year!" V11 said the Fab 5 stayed inside with Mr. E during lunch, where they would do gymnastics on his carpet. She vaguely recalls being under Mr. E's desk where she and other girls would do work on reading assignments while under there. She said Mr. E was not at his desk while they were under there. I asked her what she now feels about sitting under a teacher's desk. She said, "It's weird". I had her describe how she sat on Mr. E's lap and point to an area on her mother's thigh where she'd sit. V11 pointed to the middle of her mom's thigh. She said Mr. E would keep an arm wrapped around her waist while she sat on his lap. And Mr. E would bounce her on his leg. I asked her what she thinks now about sitting on a male teacher's lap and she said, "That's really weird". She has had male teachers since Mr. E and says they are fine. She has never had to sit on another male teacher's lap or has never sat under another male teacher's desk. Mr. E would hug her. She never had another male teacher hug her. She said it's weird that Mr. E hugged her and looking back she said it's nit right. V11 brought a book to the interview. The book contained pages in her writing that she said Mr. E would guide her on what to write. She had drawings she made and colored in. She said Mr. E would have her write about a school janitor named \_\_\_\_\_. She said Mr. E had her write belittling stories about the janitor, making fun of him. She read a passage and it was bizarre in

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**Affidavit - Continued**

content. She said when she would sit on Mr. E's lap, she'd do schoolwork. She described a time when she sat on his lap while taking some sort of mastery test and Mr. E gave her the answers. V11 reflected on that time and said, "It's creepy". Mom said that her daughter was just 9 years old and naïve and didn't know. Mr. E picked V11 when she was very young. He started walking and talking with her while she was in the hallway, telling her she was going to be in his class. She said Mr. E told her never to cut her hair. Mom then referred to the book V11 drew in and she always drew herself with exceptionally long hair. V11 remembers something about yoga, but not much. I asked her what the weirdest thing she thinks of when she was in Mr. E's class. She said, "Sitting on his lap". I asked her how that made her feel. She said, "Uncomfortable". I asked her if it grosses her out and she said yes. I asked her if it bothers her talking now about it. She said it does. Mom said that sitting on laps and touching of hair, "Nobody touches my kid". Mom remembers her now 28-year-old niece telling her how she remembers Mr. E as a touchy, feely kind of guy and recalls a time when Mr. E chaperoned a school trip to an amusement park and one of her friends went on a two-person ride with Mr. E and her friend sat between Mr. E's legs. According to mom, her niece recalls her friend getting off that ride and being really creeped out. V11 said they asked Mr. E if he had a wife, and he doesn't. V11 said that when they asked him, he got quiet and seemed upset at the question. Mom said the thing is that they are 9 years old, and they don't know. Mom said she feels like it's now her fault. V11 said it was like Mr. E wanted to see them (Fab 5) all the time. V11 said Mr. E would meet them in the morning and walk them to class. He would then have them stay inside with him for lunch and recess. Mr. E then would walk them to the bus and wave bye to them at the end of the day. She said she sat on his lap a lot. Every day. She said there wasn't a day when there wasn't a girl on his lap. She said he gave out tickets redeemable for prizes, such as stuffed animals or slime. I asked her why she thinks Mr. E did all of this. She said, "Because he likes girls. Little girls". She said Mr. E got more comfortable with them as the year went on. She said his goal was to get them comfortable and that he wanted them to think of him as the best teacher ever. Mom said that, based on everything she's hearing and reading, it looks like this has been going on for 20 years. Mom said she's not happy with the town of Plymouth because she believes they knew about Mr. E. Mom said V11 didn't come to her and tell her this all happened. Mom said because she herself was able to ask her daughter the right questions, was her daughter able to finally tell her what happened. Mom believes her daughter was trying to tell her, but ultimately this was how she found out.

39. On January 12, 2022, V10 and her mother came to the Plymouth Police Department and took part in an audio/video recorded interview conducted by Detective Bilotto. V10 is currently \_\_\_\_\_ years old and is in \_\_\_\_\_ grade. V10 said she had Mr. E in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. E favorited the girls. He made sure the popular girls were in his class. She said he visited her while she was in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and made sure she was in his 4<sup>th</sup> grade class and even signed her yearbook saying so. Mr. E would have certain girls, not boys, stay inside with him during recess. V10 saw other girls go under Mr. E's desk and do work. She said she never did. She said the girls in her class refused to sit on his lap because it was weird, but she said girls in other grades sat on his lap. She said, "He tried to get all the girls to sit on his lap." I asked her if she ever saw him pull a girl on his lap and she said, "He put his arm around me. One time we were going to lunch, and he told me to stay back, and he grabbed and put his arm around me and pulled me and told me 'I just want you to know you're one of my favorite students and I made sure you were in my class.'" She said he used to play with the girl's hair a lot. While doing schoolwork Mr. E would come up behind them and start playing with their hair. She said one time she had a ponytail and Mr. E came up behind her and tried to braid it. She told him to stop, and he said yeah. But he did it again on a different day. He also put both his hands on her shoulders. V10 said they talked to \_\_\_\_\_ about Mr. E. Mom said she talked to \_\_\_\_\_. Mom spoke to her because V10 came home one day and told her Mr. E was playing with her

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<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>1/18/22</i>	<i>Keegan</i>	<i>1/18/22</i>



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**Affidavit - Continued**

hair. Mom said she told her daughter that she needs to tell Mr. E to stop. Mom spoke to outside at school as she was dropping V10 off. Mom told that V10 has experienced some things with Mr. E and Mr. E keeps playing with her hair and V10 doesn't like it and it makes V10 uncomfortable. Mom said, "I told her ( ) to tell him not to do that". responded by mentioning that this was not the first time this has been talked about. Mom said she regrets not pressing more at that time saying, "What do you mean this has happened before?" Mom assumed that the principal would do the right thing. Mom said that if she had followed her gut instinct then, she would have went inside and raised hell. But mom said that she didn't want to bring that uncomfortableness to her daughter as V10 was already feeling uncomfortable because of Mr. E. Mom said, "When you speak to the principal and she's brushing it off, it made me feel like I should brush it off". never followed up with mom after mom brought it to her attention that day during the face to face meeting at the school. Mom said someone along the line was not doing their job. V10 said she has had male teachers since Mr. E, and they do not have girls sit on their lap or hug them or play with their hair. V10 said that some of her friends are afraid of having male teachers now because of Mr. E. V10 said Mr. E gave girls answers to tests. She said he gave certain girls the answers on standardized tests. Mom remembers V10 coming home and telling her Mr. E had given her answers on a standardized test and said Mr. E got in trouble for that causing the girls to have to retake the test. V10 said she did gymnastics in Mr. E's class. Mom said, "How does this happen when everyone knows?" Mom said the only reason she knew to talk to V10 about Mr. E was because her son, V10's older brother who is two years older than V10, had Mr. E prior. Her son had Mr. E with V11, and her son knew V11 was having a hard time telling her own mother about Mr. E. Mom said her son told her he witnessed Mr. E run his hands through V11's hair. Mom said her own son had to witness what "This creepy teacher did to the girls". Mom said it affects a lot of people. V10 said Mr. E would have his class put on a play and the play consisted mostly of girls. V10 said she was supposed to dress up as Richard Simmons for the play, but the play never happened. V10 said Mr. E gave out gifts, such as stuffed animals. V10 recalls one group of girls called the fun group, which ended up having so many tickets that were redeemable for prizes from Mr. E. She recalls a group referred to as the Fab 5 from a prior class. V10 said she was in a group called FPL (Full Privileged List) that was named by Mr. E. V10 referred to it as the Favorite Person List. V10 recalls a drawing under Mr. E's desk referring to someone's cave but cannot recall her name. V10 then named a fellow female student and said she thinks it may be her name because that female student was always under Mr. E's desk. V10 said this girl would just sit under Mr. E's desk and do her schoolwork. Mom said she thinks Mr. E was trying to win over that special someone and have it go further. Mom thinks Mr. E got his jollies from this, that he was looking at these young girls in a sexual way. V10 said Mr. E always had a camera and was taking pictures of kids. V10 said, "I feel like I've seen him on the ground taking pictures. I feel like I've seen him lay on the rug and take pictures". V10 said she did gymnastics in his class and did cartwheels in front of his class.

40. On December 03, 2021, a search and seizure warrant was granted by the honorable Judge Baldini at GA-15 for digital image files in the form of human readable copies contained on a red Nikon digital camera, 765 photos, a picture album containing 68 photos, 28 class pictures, an 11-page photo album and a drawing referencing a cave.

41. On December 03, 2021, the red Nikon digital camera was sent to the State of Connecticut Division of Scientific Services (Meriden) for forensic analysis. I received a DVD from the Multimedia and Image Enhancement Unit containing images from the camera. There were a few images of students with nothing

(This is page 21 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date <i>January 15, 2022</i>	Signed (Affiant) <i>[Signature]</i>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <i>January 15, 2022</i>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <i>DET SGT [Signature]</i>
Reviewed (Prosecutor Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date <i>1/18/22</i>
Date <i>1/18/22</i>	Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>[Signature]</i>

**ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION**

JD-CR-64a Rev. 3-11  
C.G.S. § 54-2a  
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
SUPERIOR COURT**

www.jud.ct.gov

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) <b>ESCHERT, James</b>	Residence (Town) of accused <b>Canton</b>	Court to be held at (Town) <b>New Britain</b>	Geographical Area number <b>15</b>
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**Affidavit - Continued**

deemed inappropriate. Of the 765 photos, 26 of them I determined as inappropriate. Two of which pictures were of a closeup of a female student's groin area while she was performing a cartwheel. Three of which were taken from ground level and showed female students seated in a manner which exposed their groin and underwear. The drawing referencing a cave was titled "V5's cave".

42. It is respectfully requested that a warrant be issued for the arrest of James Eschert ( [REDACTED] /1971) for one count of 53-21(a)(2) Risk of injury to V1 on or about school year 2019-2020. One count of 53-21(a)(2) Risk of injury to V2 on or about school year 2019-2020. One count of Risk of injury 53-21(a)(1), One count of Risk of injury 53-21(a)(2), One count of 53a-73a(a)(1)(A) Sexual assault fourth degree, and One count of 53a-73a(a)(6) Sexual assault fourth degree, to V5 on or about school year 2017-2018. One count of 53-21(a)(2) Risk of injury to V8 on or about school year 2016-2017.

(This is page 22 of a 22 page Affidavit.)

Date	<i>January 15, 2022</i>	Signed (Affiant)	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jurat	Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) <i>January 15, 2022</i>	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public)	<i>DET SGT. [Signature]</i>
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	<i>1/18/22</i>
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee)	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date	<i>1/18/22</i>