

Dear Parent,

Ohio State has been informed by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office that Nathan Fassnacht has been arrested and charged with sexual assault of a minor. Fassnacht worked at the university's Child Care Program at the Ackerman location from January 2002 until August 2005. He was also a student employee at the North Central State College Child Development Center on Ohio State's Mansfield campus from November 2000 to November 2001. One victim affiliated with our Child Care Program has been identified and the victim's family has been contacted. Law enforcement determined that the charged assault occurred at the Child Care Program at the Ackerman location sometime during the term of Fassnacht's employment. Ohio State is assisting law enforcement as their investigation continues.

Based on information we have received from law enforcement, there is no indication that any criminal activity affecting members of the Ohio State community is ongoing.

We are notifying you because our records indicate that your child/children were enrolled in the Child Care Program between 2002 and 2005. We are also separately notifying former Child Care Program participants who are now 18 years of age or older.

The university was first made aware of the Franklin County Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force investigation into this matter on Feb. 5, 2015. Law enforcement informed us that Fassnacht had been arrested and charged with possession and pandering sexual material involving minors in February 2014. In an investigation of these materials, law enforcement officers identified a possible connection to Fassnacht's employment with Ohio State's Child Care Program at the Ackerman location. The university was directed by the Task Force not to release any information until the arrest was made public to protect the integrity of the law enforcement investigation, and has assisted law enforcement in every way possible since that time.

Our first priority is to support the families and individuals who may be impacted. The university has engaged Praesidium Inc., a nationally recognized leader in preventing and responding to incidents of child sexual abuse, to provide support resources. People in need of support or resources related to this investigation are encouraged to call Praesidium at 866-607-7233. Anyone with additional information for law enforcement should contact the Franklin County Sheriff at 614-525-3448 or The Ohio State University Police Division, Detective Susan Liu, 614-292-2121.

Our current Child Care Program staff are screened through an Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and FBI background check, reference checks and ongoing evaluations. We also provide employee training related to child abuse and have policies regarding one-on-one contact with minors. We meet all state licensure requirements, and are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

I recognize that a letter is an impersonal way of sharing this difficult news, but it is important that you hear from the university directly as soon as possible. I know that you will have questions, and we are committed to sharing available information as well as providing you with the support you need. Please know that the current Child Care Program staff are also just learning this information and will not be able to provide details to you. We will provide additional information and answer questions at the following sessions:

- Friday, April 3, at 4:30 p.m. – Fawcett Center

- Monday, April 6, at 5:30 p.m. – Fawcett Center
- Thursday, April 9, at 5:30 p.m. – Fawcett Center

The Fawcett Center is located at 2400 Olentangy River Road, Columbus Ohio, 43210. Parking is free with a parking permit displayed in your front window. The permit will be provided by staff in front of the building or just inside the main entrance of the building. Out of respect for your privacy, these meetings are not open to the media or the general public.

I will be joined by representatives from the Franklin County Sheriff's Office as well as The Ohio State University Police Division, which is assisting with the investigation. In addition, a representative from Praesidium will attend these meetings to answer questions and connect you to support services. In the meantime, if you want to reach out to Praesidium for access to support services, representatives can be reached at 866-607-7233. A dedicated website has also been developed for you to provide useful information and guidance:
<http://website.praesidiuminc.com/ohio/>.

Please know that I understand the gravity of the information I am sharing, and how extraordinarily concerning this may be to you. The alleged conduct in this case is unthinkable, and we are doing everything in our power to support our community and the judicial process.

Sincerely,

Andraea



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