

## Case: Attacked Teacher Narrative

Mr. Chipps, having worked for years as a special education teacher with high school students in alternative programs, was the teacher in charge of a self-contained alternative class for sophomore students for the 2018-19 school year at Easttown High School. This year, the students in the class were unusually disruptive and oppositional. Right after lunch on September 20, 2018, two students started to engage in an altercation. Mr. Chipps moved in to separate the students. Assistant Principal Pricilla Brown and Dean of Students Bruno Bell were called and came to the classroom to assist in quelling the disruption and removing those two students from the classroom.

While those two students were being removed, the rest of the class became completely disruptive. As Mr. Chipps turned to see what the students were up to, he saw that they were all trying to get to a bag of potato chips. Mr. Chipps asked the girl who had the chips to put them away and get back to work and stop handing them out to everybody. She handed the bag back to Michael, who had been consistently disruptive in earlier classes. Mr. Chipps instructed Michael to put the chips away. Michael turned defiantly and handed the bag of chips to another student. At that point, the Mr. Chipps said to Michael, "No. You need to leave the class and go to the office now."

Mr. Chipps stepped towards Michael and put his hand on the Michael's elbow to escort him to the door. At this point, Michael yelled to Mr. Chipps, "Take your fucking hands off of me. Asshole, never touch me again." Mr. Chipps stepped back and turned his back to Michael in order to walk to the door to get Ms. Brown or Mr. Bell. When Mr. Chipps did so, Michael picked up a wooden chair and smashed it on Mr. Chipps' back.

Mr. Chipps stumbled out into the hall and notified Ms. Brown that he had been assaulted with a chair by Michael. Mr. Chipps then went to the principal's office and notified him as well. The principal directed Mr. Chipps to the police office within the building where Mr. Chipps gave a statement. While giving the statement, Ms. Brown came into the police office and advised the teacher and the officer that there was a problem in that Michael was not supposed to be in the school building. Ms. Brown explained that Michael had been placed in Meadow Glen Academy, a therapeutic day school for the 2017-18 school year and was placed there again for the 2018-19 school year. While at Meadow Glen, Michael had assaulted a teacher by punching him in the mouth. The Easttown High School administration was somehow unaware of the fact that Michael was attending Easttown High School this year.

Mr. Chipps then went to his private doctor and, a short time later, received a phone call from Ms. Brown who explained that Michael was being arrested for assault and disorderly conduct and the school was going to move for his expulsion. The next day Ms. Brown called Mr. Chipps to advise him that he was being suspended with pay pending a human resources investigation. Apparently, Michael's mother had claimed that Mr. Chipps took the bag of chips from Michael and shoved it into his chest. The investigation failed to substantiate the charges brought by Michael's mother.

Ultimately, however, Michael served a nine-day suspension and then returned to Mr. Chipps' classroom. A few weeks after returning to school, Michael assaulted a special needs

student breaking four of his teeth, resulting in Michael's arrest and incarceration in Juvenile Detention. Mr. Chipps continues to teach at Easttown High School and worries about Michael being released from custody and returning to his classroom.

At the beginning of every year the teacher makes himself aware of all of the individualized education plans for each student. The assaulting student only had a 504 plan for his asthma. It took the district form wants to conduct an investigation about this incident and in the conclusion I was told that my remarks to the student specifically don't touch me really don't touch me or deem to be marking the student which caused him to become embarrassed. An MRI of my neck shows significant injury requiring surgery I am still not back to work