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CENTRAL DAUPHIN

Ex-bus driver claims sex assault by supervisor

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A former Central Dauphin School District bus driver filed a federal lawsuit this week against the school district and several employees, saying her supervisor sexually assaulted her over several months, making her pregnant and insisting she have an abortion.

The woman, called Jane Doe in the lawsuit, said her reports of sexual abuse were ignored by supervisors who instead exposed her private medical information and retaliated against her, the suit said.

Jane Doe left her job Dec. 21, the suit said. She is suing for \$75,000.

"The allegations against the school district and its employees are baseless and absurd," said district solicitor James Ellison.

"We look forward to vigorously defending against these claims and are confident that the true facts will reveal that this case is an economically motivated fabrication."

Dauphin County district attorney's office had no charges listed against David Licht, the supervisor alleged to have committed the sexual harassment and assaults.

Licht could not be reached for comment yesterday afternoon.

Licht hasn't worked for the school district for more than a year, said district spokeswoman Shannon Kuntz, who said she couldn't comment on the case because it's a personnel issue.

"My client, Ms. Doe, exhibited tremendous courage and brought these issues to her employer's attention, only to be re-victimized, retaliated against and forced to resign from her employment," Jane Doe's attorney, Lisa Matukaitis, said in a written statement.

"A single mother, Jane Doe, in exchange for her job, which she desperately needed to support her two children, was required to submit to the unwanted sexual advances and assaults of her supervisor, who repeatedly demanded" sex, the suit said.

The suit names Licht, who was director of transportation and was Jane Doe's direct supervisor. It also names Superintendent John Scola, Director of Human Resources William Irwin, Director of Transportation Jay Omslaer and Business Manager Karen McConnell.

Soon after he was hired, Licht began sexually harassing Jane Doe by e-mail, in person, instant message and by phone, the suit said.

Licht had sex with Jane Doe on an empty school bus against her will, the lawsuit said.

She complained to several supervisors, the suit said.

Jane Doe met Licht at a State College hotel room after he repeatedly threatened her job if she didn't, the suit said.

When she became pregnant, he told her she must have an abortion, the suit said.

He paid for the abortion and ordered another of his employees to drive her to have the abortion, but refused to pay her for 15 days of missed work related to the pregnancy, abortion and related stress, the lawsuit alleged.

The woman was questioned, intimidated and harassed by coworkers and supervisors for filing internal and Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission complaints, the suit said. The district said she had made it up, the suit said.

Jane Doe quit her job Dec. 21 after having a severe anxiety attack and suffering more problems when she tried to return to work, the suit said.

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