

Former LDS seminary principal charged with sex felonies with student

By Brandon Dabling
Special To The Tribune

Salt Lake Tribune

Updated:07/17/2009 08:21:08 PM MDT

Provo » A former LDS seminary principal connected to Lone Peak High School was charged with 21 felonies Friday for an alleged sexual relationship with one of his 16-year-old female students.

Michael Pratt, 37, faces 10 counts of forcible sodomy, seven counts of object rape and two counts of rape -- all first-degree felonies. He is also charged with two counts of forcible sodomy, second-degree felonies, according to court documents.

Police arrested Pratt on July 9 on suspicion of enticing and engaging in sexual activities with the girl since early May. Police said the sexual encounters took place in several sites around Utah County, including Provo Canyon's Bridal Veil Falls and Vivian Park, Goshen and the Eureka mines. Pratt took the girl from the Highland school for the sexual encounters on three occasions without her parents' or the school's knowledge, according to arresting documents.

Sgt. Matt Higley of Utah County Sex Crimes Task Force said the relationship progressed to include "basically everything but full intercourse," which a police affidavit said Pratt and the girl attempted on two occasions -- one time leaning against his car in public view.

Pratt posted the \$20,000 cash-only bail and is scheduled to appear in Provo's 4th District Court on Monday, where he will be presented with the charges and be able to request a public defender. The case will then be transferred to Judge Christine Johnson in the American Fork Justice Court.

The LDS Church terminated Pratt's employment once the allegations surfaced.

Close Window

Send To Printer