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Sexual exploitation trial begins for ex-youth worker

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A lawyer defending a former Batshaw youth worker charged with abusing his authority by having sex with troubled teens tried Wednesday to stop the media from publishing details of the trial, including her client's name.

But Quebec Court Judge Gilles Cadieux rejected the request, saying the argument that publication could damage Evon Smith's future career prospects could apply to anyone accused of a crime.

Smith faces charges of sexual exploitation, sexual interference and invitation to sexual touching involving two teens from a Batshaw group home.

One of the victims, who can't be named, testified that on June 7, 2004, she and another group home resident went for a walk along the Lakeshore with Smith, who was a youth worker at the time.

The three ended up in a wooded area and began talking about sex.

"He asked me if I was a freak," the witness said, explaining the word means she was open in sex. "I said yes, but only with my boyfriend."

The girl, who was 13 at the time of the alleged incident, said Smith then asked the girls to pick a number between one and 10, and the winner got to perform oral sex on him.

"I said I didn't want to," the girl testified. "But I gave in to him, and didn't do it very long.

"I told him I didn't want to do it anymore and he said that's OK, (the other girl) will finish it off."

Afterward, the girl testified, Smith told them not to tell anyone, that it was their secret.

Smith, who is free on bail, no longer works at Batshaw.

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