

Worker faces rap in Manhattan Family Court building sex attacks

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A city worker who supervised troubled teens raped and sexually abused underage girls inside the [Manhattan Family Court](#) building, prosecutors said Tuesday.

[Tony Simmons](#), 45, of the [Bronx](#), pleaded not guilty to the criminal charges Tuesday after four victims picked him out of a lineup.

"It's outrageous," said [Manhattan](#) District Attorney [Robert Morgenthau](#). "Here somebody who was supposed to be protecting them - helping them - is sexually abusing them. It's as bad as it gets."

City Investigation [Commissioner Rose Gill Hearn](#), whose office referred the case to Manhattan prosecutors, called the case a "shocking abuse of the public trust."

Prosecutors said Simmons raped a 15-year-old in a courthouse elevator in September 2005 and sexually assaulted a 16-year-old girl two months later in a courthouse pantry.

Simmons, who was being held on \$250,000 bail, was nabbed after authorities found out about an assault in July of a 15-year-old girl behind a locker in a waiting area.

"Who the heck was supervising him?" Morgenthau wondered.

Assistant Manhattan District Attorney Amir Vonsover said the three girls involved in Tuesday's criminal complaint are "just the tip of the iceberg."

He said a fourth victim told detectives that Simmons sexually abused her in 2000, but he was not charged in that case because it happened more than five years ago.

Hearn said Simmons, who has worked for the city Department of Juvenile Justice for 16 years, was suspended without pay from his \$37,391-a-year job for one month this summer before being put on desk duty away from children.

Because prosecutors fear there could be more victims, they set up a hotline. Anyone with information relevant to the case should call (212) 335-9373.

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