

Teacher indicted in prescription fraud

New Brunswick: A suspended special education teacher was indicted yesterday on charges he used a stolen doctor's prescription form and forged a note to explain his excessive absences from his class during the 2006-2007 school year.

Stanley Williams, 55, of Newark, faces charges of receiving stolen property, forging the note and official misconduct, Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said.

William's attorney, Timothy Smith, of South Orange said the allegations should have been handled through internal administrative hearings instead of criminal charges.

"I'm astonished," Williams said. "When all the facts are played out, the integrity of this extraordinary individual will be solidly intact."

Williams, a city teacher for 20 years who received a salary of \$75,107, has been suspended with pay since police filed charges against him in September. Schools Superintendent Richard Kaplan said that following the indictment yesterday, Williams was immediately suspended without pay.

Each charge carries a maximum penalty of five years in jail and a 15,000 fine, upon conviction.

When the school board questioned William's absences from school in June, he presented a note from a doctor, Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor Brian Gillet said. School officials notified the prosecutor's office, which contacted the doctor whose name was on the note, Gillet said. The doctor, a pediatrician, said Williams had never been his patient, he said.