Bethany Christian teacher sentenced

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Nov. 27—GOSHEN — A former employee of Bethany Christian Schools will serve two years in prison for child seduction, a Level 5 felony.

Goshen police said they were notified of a child solicitation incident involving the teacher. Detectives investigated, and on April 30, Kyle D. Snyder, 27, of Goshen, was arrested at his home.

According to a probable cause affidavit, the parents of a 17-year-old Bethany Christian student learned of "inappropriate contact" between Snyder and their daughter. Snyder was the assistant theater director for the high school and middle school.

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About a year and a half ago, the statement reads, the girl met Snyder in one of her theater classes while Snyder was the assistant theater director. The affidavit also said that he was the girl's teacher in 2023 when she was 16 years old. He then started tutoring her in math, the parents told police. In August/September, the affidavit reads, the parents started having a bad feeling about Snyder and their daughter's relationship. Due to text messages they found on their daughter's phone, they believe the relationship became physical in October or November of that year, the affidavit reads.

They initially made a report to Syracuse police, with the girl saying the sexual contact continued through April 21 and that it occurred mainly at Snyder's house, where he lives with his parents. His parents were in a different room at the time, the statement reads.

With consent from the family, Goshen police searched the girl's phone. Beginning from April of 2023, there were 34,000 text messages with many of them being sexually explicit, the affidavit reads.

The affidavit also states that the officer conducted an interview with the head of Bethany Christian Schools, who said Snyder was fired in February for inappropriate comments he made to other students during a math tutoring session, outside of the school. These students were 15-18 years old.

Snyder pleaded guilty but mentally ill to child seduction, a Level 5 felony and four other counts were dismissed, on Sept. 26. Snyder was sentenced on Oct. 22 to six years at the Indiana Department of Corrections, with four years suspended on reporting probation.