

December 8, 2020
Superintendent Jeff Hill
Morton Community Unit School District 709
1050 South Fourth Avenue
Suite 200
Morton, IL 61550

Superintendent Hill:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act of Illinois, this is a request for digital copies of any and all electronic correspondence sent or received from the following persons, as it pertains to the knowledge of an inappropriate relationship between former high school business teacher Erin Kemp and a student or students between August 2019 and December 4th, 2020.

- Dr. Jeff Hill, superintendent
- Dr. Craig Smock, assistant superintendent
- Deidre Ripka, principal, Morton High School
- Jamie Adolphson, assistant principal and dean, Morton High School
- Matthew Oyer, assistant principal and dean, Morton High School
- Scott Jones, athletic director, Morton High School

If there are any costs to be accrued, please notify Tyler Lopez or WEEK-TV (requestor) of associated costs by phone or by email.

We shall expect a response within five business days as provided in 5 ILCS 140/3.

If you choose to deny this request, please provide a written explanation for the denial including a reference to the specific statutory exemption(s) upon which you rely.

Also, please provide segregable portions of otherwise exempt material.

Thank you,
Tyler Lopez
Anchor
Desk: 309-698-3733 | Cell: 309-265-1941
tlopez@week.com
news25@week.com

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Information request

email: "MSheehan@wmbd.com Matthew Sheehan" Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 1:12:41 PM Central Daylight Time

To: email: "jamie.adolphson@mcusd709.org jamie.adolphson@mcusd709.org"

Good afternoon,

We have received an anonymous tip from someone in Morton saying a high school teacher was taken out of the school on Thursday for being caught having relations with a student.

I wanted to reach out to you to see if the district had any comment on the matter. The teacher, alleged from the tip, is Erin Kemp.

Again, this is just an alleged tip that we got and I wanted to do my due diligence in looking into the matter.

Thank you,

Matt Sheehan -- Television Anchor/Reporter

WMBD News

Cell: (314)402-8884

3131 N. University St.

Peoria, IL 61604

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)

www.ciproud.com

Attachments:

Outlook-me4renq3.png 37k

[EXTERNAL EMAIL] WMBD Interview Request: Morton Teacher relations with Student

email: "JBohlmann@wmbd.com Janie Bohlmann" Monday, September 21, 2020 at 10:07:27 AM Central Daylight Time
To: email: "jeff.hill@mcusd709.org jeff.hill@mcusd709.org"

Hi Superintendent Hill,

I just left you a voicemail a few minutes ago, but wanted to make sure you got the message because district board president Shad Beaty said you'd be the only person able to comment.

We've gotten reports that last Thursday a teacher was removed from the school for relations with a student. The teacher is possibly Erin Kemp. I was wondering if you could confirm that Kemp was removed from the school for relations with a student? If you have any more information on this situation or would like to do an interview, let me know.

Thanks,

Janie Bohlmann

[STAFF] Response to FOIA Request

email: "troy.teater@mcusd709.org Teater, Troy" Monday, September 28, 2020 at 11:53:36 AM Central Daylight Time
To: email: "jonah.meadows@patch.com"
Cc: email: "jeff.hill@mcusd709.org Jeff Hill" , email: "jay.greening@mhtlaw.com Jay Greening"

Mr. Meadows:

We are in receipt of your Freedom of Information Act request below. Attached please find the photographs of Ms. Kemp we were able to locate through a records search in the District. Please understand that it is possible that there may be other photographs of Ms. Kemp in the District but we were not able to locate them in the time allowed to respond to your FOIA request.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

I am responsible for granting and denying the requests for records under the your Freedom of Information Act. If you believe that this response constitutes a denial of your request, you have the right to have this response reviewed by the Public Access Counselor (PAC) at the Office of the Illinois Attorney General. 5 ILCS 140/9.5(a). You can file your Request for Review with the PAC by writing to:

Public Access Counselor

Office of the Attorney

General 500 South 2nd

Street Springfield, Illinois

62706

Fax: 217-782-1396

E-mail:

publicaccess@atg.state.il.us

You also have the right to seek judicial review of this response by filing a lawsuit in the State circuit court. 5 ILCS 140/11.

If you choose to file a Request for Review with the Public Access Counselor or State court, you will need to include a copy of this letter for the review. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.



MORTON
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

Troy A. Teater Ed.D.
Director of Curriculum and Technology
Phone: 309.263.2581

Attachments:

Erin_Kemp.jpg 68k



Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org>

[STAFF] PRESS RELEASE

1 message

Jeff Hill <jeff.hill@mcusd709.org>

Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 11:27 AM

To: Admin-All-Staff <admin-all-staff@mcusd709.org>

Good morning - This went out one minute ago.

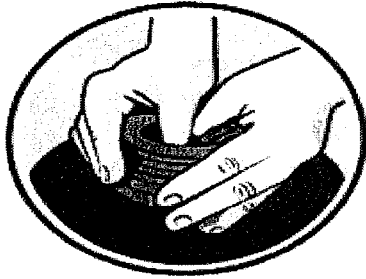
Thanks!

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Morton Unit School District 709
jeff.hill@mcusd709.org
309-263-2581



Morton Press Release .docx.pdf

144K



MORTON

UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 709

PRESS RELEASE

September 17, 2020

Morton, Illinois

Morton School District teacher Erin Kemp resigned her position on September 17, 2020 following a school district investigation involving an inappropriate relationship with a student. School representatives have reported the matter to the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and local law enforcement. All inquiries about this matter should be referred to the Village of Morton Police Department.



Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org>

[STAFF] Re: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] Teacher arrest

1 message

Jeff Hill <jeff.hill@mcusd709.org>
To: "Vlahos, Nick" <nvlahos@pjstar.com>

Mon, Sep 21, 2020 at 8:21 AM

Good morning Nick,

Erin Kemp resigned her position last week. There has not been an arrest.

Thanks!

Jeffrey W. Hill, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Morton Unit School District 709
jeff.hill@mcusd709.org
309-263-2581

On Sep 21, 2020, at 8:16 AM, Vlahos, Nick <nvlahos@pjstar.com> wrote:

Good morning, Jeff,

This is Nick Vlahos from the Journal Star. Hope you are well. I am hearing a teacher at the high school, Erin Kemp, was arrested late last week. Can you please confirm that? I'm not sure how much you can say about it, but any information you can offer would be welcome.

I can be reached at the number below or by email.

Thanks for your help.

nv

--

Nick Vlahos
Reporter/editor
Peoria Journal Star
1 News Plaza
Peoria, IL 61643

(309) 645-1976 (c)
nvlahos@pjstar.com
Twitter: @VlahosNick

This message may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient or authorized to receive this for the intended recipient, you must not use, copy, disclose or take any action based on this message or any information herein. If you have received this message in error, please advise the sender immediately by sending a reply e-mail and delete this message. Thank you for your cooperation.



Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org>

Re: [STAFF] E Kemp

1 message

Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org>
To: "Ripka, Deidre" <deidre.ripka@mcusd709.org>

Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:47 PM

Yes. But... what happens if you don't?

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:46 PM Ripka, Deidre <deidre.ripka@mcusd709.org> wrote:
You know what happens when I try to take a day off...

Mrs. Deidre Ripka
Principal
Morton High School
Morton, Illinois



On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:40 PM Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org> wrote:
If you do not have much, no need to send.

maybe take a day off soon, huh?

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:37 PM Ripka, Deidre <deidre.ripka@mcusd709.org> wrote:
My notes weren't very good but I'll send them to you.

I'm fine. Need to take my mind off this. Still can't believe it.

Mrs. Deidre Ripka
Principal
Morton High School
Morton, Illinois



On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:36 PM Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org> wrote:
If you have any interrogation notes, can you scan and send them to me please?

You hanging in there?

CS

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:35 PM Ripka, Deidre <deidre.ripka@mcusd709.org> wrote:
No.

Mrs. Deidre Ripka
Principal
Morton High School
Morton, Illinois



On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:33 PM Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org> wrote:
But, did she do any sponsor duties this year? Do we owe her any money?

On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 3:26 PM Ripka, Deidre <deidre.ripka@mcusd709.org> wrote:
Department head
CHI stipend
Junior class sponsor

Mrs. Deidre Ripka
Principal
Morton High School
Morton, Illinois



On Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 2:28 PM Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org> wrote:
Deidre will do the term par. Deidre, did Erin do any sponsor duties at all?

CS

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Heppard, Brenda** <brenda.heppard@mcusd709.org>
Date: Thu, Sep 17, 2020 at 2:26 PM
Subject: [STAFF] E Kemp
To: Craig Smock <craig.smock@mcusd709.org>

Craig,

I am calculating the final payout for Erin on 10/2/20. She has 3 extra duty assignments. I calculated a daily rate based off of 180 days for department head and CHI assuming that is a daily position. The other position was for 11th Grade sponsor. Did she actually perform any duties for that yet?

Also, do you want me to do a term par on her or do you want to ask Deidre to submit one?

Brenda

--
Brenda Heppard
Human Resources Coordinator
1050 S. Fourth Ave., Suite 200
Morton, IL 61550
brenda.heppard@mcusd709.org

309-263-2581 ext 8023

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Craig Smock, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Morton C.U.S.D. 709

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Assistant Superintendent
Morton C.U.S.D. 709

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Morton C.U.S.D. 709

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Craig Smock, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent
Morton C.U.S.D. 709



Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org>

Re: [STAFF]

1 message

Teater, Troy <troy.teater@mcusd709.org>

Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 4:32 PM

To: "Smock, Craig" <craig.smock@mcusd709.org>

Yes

On Fri, Sep 11, 2020 at 4:20 PM Smock, Craig <craig.smock@mcusd709.org> wrote:

Troy,

I'd like us to search emails of a teacher for exchanges between Erin Kemp and student,

Is that something that you can do without other staff involved?

Craig



Troy A. Teater Ed.D.
Director of Curriculum and Technology
Phone: 309.263.2581

