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Press Release

For Immediate Release:

Re: State of Ohio vs. Katie A. Fazekas, Case #14 CR 0197

Today Judge Steve C. Shuff sentenced Katie A. Fazekas to a term of imprisonment of seventeen (17) months upon her conviction for Attempted Sexual Battery, a felony of the fourth degree. The conviction resulted from a Tiffin Police Department investigation in cooperation with the Carey Police Department, Seneca County Prosecutor's Office and Wyandot County Prosecutor's Office. The investigation revealed a sexual relationship between Katie A. Fazekas and a seventeen year old Carey High School student. Fazekas had been employed in the Carey Schools as a teacher and was the girls' basketball coach at Columbian High School. She has since resigned both positions.

The investigation was instituted as the result of reports to the Carey school administration and the Carey Police Department in March of this year. The investigation later expanded to Tiffin. The investigation revealed that Fazekas had been involved in a sexual relationship with the student during the summer of 2013 and into the 2013-14 school year.

After reviewing the investigation, Seneca County Prosecutor Derek W. DeVine was able to negotiate today's resolution of the case with Fazekas' attorney Jay Feldstein of Toledo. DeVine said, "The relationship between a teacher and student is of the utmost importance to our community. Ms. Fazekas violated the trust that our community placed with her to protect children."

The resolution of the case involved Ms. Fazekas waiving her right to have her case presented to the Seneca County Grand Jury. She consented to being charged with one count of Attempted Sexual Battery, a felony of the fourth degree. The maximum possible penalty for this charge is eighteen months imprisonment and includes a mandatory Tier III Sexual Offender Classification.

Ms. Fazekas was sentenced pursuant to the plea agreement and received a stated prison term of seventeen months at the Ohio Department of Corrections at Marysville. She was immediately remanded into custody of the sheriff by Judge Steve C. Shuff. As part of the plea negotiations, Ms. Fazekas executed a Permanent Voluntary Surrender of her teaching license. DeVine added, "it was very important to me to

know that not only will Ms. Fazekas never be teaching again, she will also be a registered sex offender and reporting her address, employment, and other data to the Sheriff for the rest of her life.”

The investigation by the Tiffin Police Department was completed by Detective Lt. Mark Marquis. He was assisted by Seneca County Prosecutor’s Office Investigator Matthew Noftz. Said DeVine, “Lt. Marquis and Mr. Noftz did an excellent job gathering the information and putting together the case.”