

CHANGING THE WORLD
ONE GIRL AT A TIME



ADMISSION PREVIEW:
Sunday, Dec. 7
1:00 – 4:00 pm

DAY: PRE-K-12
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- [Park Cities People](#)

PRESTON HOLLOW PEOPLE

Other Former ESD Students Have Contacted Aldous, Alleging Instances of Teacher Sexual Misconduct

Charla Aldous, lead attorney for the family suing the Episcopal School of Dallas for failing to protect their daughter from a sexual predator employed by the school, presented new information at the trial yesterday after the jury was sent home.

Aldous said that she has been contacted by other former students alleging sexual abuse and misconduct by ESD teachers. These students are separate from the main party to the civil lawsuit, Jane Doe II, and the person being identified as “Former Student,” who was deposed several weeks ago related to her charge that a coach sexually abused her in 1992 and 1993.

The jury was not present for this portion of proceedings, as none of the related documents have been admitted as evidence. An anonymous letter was placed in Aldous' home mailbox alleging two instances of student-teacher sexual abuse and asking for court protection for the victims' names before any more information was divulged.

Judge D'Metria Benson said she couldn't promise protection for other victims without knowing more about the case. "They might be named, and they might not," the judge said.



Aldous said another person has contacted her through email and is willing to be deposed regarding his daughter's tale of sexual harassment at ESD. But he too is asking for court protection.

Aldous said there have been "a lot of emails" about alleged abuse, but this one in particular stood out to her. She also implied that ESD knew about this instance and others but did not disclose it to the court as required.

"The allegation that ESD has been withholding discovery is inappropriate," attorney Chrysta Castañeda said.

Emotions were high on both sides, and Benson instructed the counselors to calm down. Benson delayed ruling on either of these matters until Aldous can further verify the claims being made.

The trial resumes Monday.

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By [Claire St. Amant](#) Aug. 17, 2011 | 12:31 pm | [24 Comments](#) | [Comments RSS](#)

24 comments to "Other Former ESD Students Have Contacted Aldous, Alleging Instances of Teacher Sexual Misconduct "

been there... @ August 17, 2011 at [2:42 pm](#)

I wanted to respond to the person who asked about ideas to protect their children from predators.

Because I was abused as a child in my home and then again by a priest when I was 16, one of my main goals in my life was to raise my child in an atmosphere free from abuse.

I failed. I married a person who was not a great choice. I divorced him when my daughter was four but because I did not get full custody until she was in the third grade, she ended up being abused by her new step brother. It was a nightmare. I blame myself for picking such a bad father for her....

After I got her full time when she was 8, I did start teaching her about how her body was sacred. I taught her early on about the probability that she would be male dependant because of the abuse and not having a father around. We talked a lot about boundaries and what good relationships looked like.

I kept open communication and focused my attention on meeting her emotional needs.

I had huge help though. I was graced and will be forever grateful to HP schools. The teachers and counselors were there for my daughter in ways that I was never able to reach. It was a tough haul many years, but she ended up healthy, happy, loved and smart.

Mrs. Arnold is a counselor at HPMS. She practically carried my daughter emotionally for years. I was a good mom but she was better in so many ways. Hard to explain but my daughter really leaned on her. Same with her HPHS counselors and teachers.

And, a note on the male dependant children like mine. My daughter craved father figure attention. I could not fill that space. There was this angel of a school resource officer at HPMS named Rock Hardin. My daughter loved the ground this man walked on. She was always looking for him or in his office. I cannot even put in words how much this man filled up my daughter but held good boundaries and never hurt her. He was crucial because of his depth of love for kids and the timing in her life.

She went on to HPHS and had more male teachers who also filled her with what I call fathering. She talked about these male teachers all the time. I was so grateful. I think I could tell she was safe by the way she talked about these men. She talked about them all the time and her eyes just sparkled and she smiled a lot. She was deeply happy...something I had not seen before. That is what I watched for in my daughter. I watched and listened.

My daughter graduates from college next year and plans to go on to work internationally with women and children programs to stop abuse of all types.

Those are my comments for other parents from someone who has been there both as an adult who was a victim as a child and a mother of a victim.

PS – And, I still made mistakes. I wish I was able to contain my anger at the church because it impacted my daughter and she did not want to attend any churches. She also didn't trust ministers or priests of any type because of me. I feel in many ways I robbed my daughter of the chance to embrace youth programs and church.

I also learned from these bloggers. I realized only after feedback from others, I must be a hypocrite because one of my favorite movies is Mr. Holland's Opus where the teacher gets to the end of his career and gets to see all of the people he impacted. I had given this movie to my doctor when he retired. I loved my doctor who helped me in recovery. It never occurred to me that the character I loved so much was very close to being like the offending teacher at ESD.

Female Former Student @ August 17, 2011 at [3:02 pm](#)

I think it is terrible that this is coming out and being published prior to anyone even validating the accusations. This conversation clearly should have been held in private in the Judge's chambers and NOT in the courtroom in front of members of the press. This was just a way for the plaintiff's counsel to put something else out there to further negatively impact the public view of ESD. Everyone seems to want to say that ESD attorneys are playing games... plaintiff's counsel blind sliding the defense in front of members of the press? Smells like a "vicious" game to me. And yes, I purposefully inserted the word vicious there because of all the purely hateful comments being posted about ESD supporters being "vicious" and even attacking ESD supporter's religious values and spiritual beliefs. Now THAT is vicious and that is going past giving an opinion; that is judging others. I learned in my religious studies at ESD that in the bible it tells us not pass judgment on others. Nothing in the above statement shows ANY evidence that their accusations were brought to ESD representatives prior to sending these anonymous emails and letters to Aldous. I feel these claims need to be investigated and I feel they should have been investigated prior to ever allowing this to be leaked. What happened to right to a fair trial?

Excuse me? @ August 17, 2011 at [3:23 pm](#)

So, wait. We aren't supposed to judge ESD supporters but it's okay to call the victim a trollop?

It is entirely fair and accurate to report what happened in the courtroom. Period. Sorry it makes ESD look bad, but some would even say that PHP has a duty to inform the public.

For the mom who spoke in the first column, I am truly appreciative of your story. No one is perfect. No one makes perfect choices (except Nancy.) I think it speaks volumes about your character that you were honest with yourself, aware, and willing to have a circle of people to help you. You stopped a cycle. You did that. You loved your daughter and self enough to do whatever it took for her. And, you have insight.

About the movies, I also like Mr. Holland's Opus. I read somewhere about this trend of "fetishizing" teenage girls. It's happening on tv, with singers, movies, ads, etc. It makes you think, doesn't it.

Uppercase Matt @ August 17, 2011 at [3:59 pm](#)

@Female Former Student: The "fair trial" is why the jury wasn't in the room when these matters were brought up. If these other potential victims testify, ESD will get a chance to cross-examine them, and maybe even depose them first. I'm sure there will also be testimony as to whether any "ESD representatives" were aware of the situation at the time they may have happened. This wasn't a "leak", this was open court. And surely you'd agree, assuming that these are actual, true other cases of ESD faculty abusing students, that it's important that they come forward rather than having the school potentially continue a pattern of quietly abusing their students (or allowing it to happen)?

Nancy @ August 17, 2011 at [4:59 pm](#)

Excuse me?@ I never said I made perfect choices. What is your problem? Do you just have a problem with people that don't agree with you or are you just another one of the plaintiff's attorneys that live on this blog?

Look maybe you can sell this to a jury and good luck to you. Just be glad I am not on the jury. Miss Doe was almost 17 (legal age of consent) when she opened the door in her towel.

I think shopping mommy and sailing daddy bear some responsibility for this too and I don't think they deserve to be rewarded with 10 million dollars so they can keep on shopping and sailing and passing their responsibilities on others.

As far as others coming forward with claims at this point I guess I am not surprised. Never underestimate what people will do/say for money.

parent of 2 teens @ August 17, 2011 at [6:10 pm](#)

Marie

Maybe the insurance company's are paying Claire off to skew this story toward the plaintiff's. 😊

Nancy,

My comment was meant to be sarcastic! If I was on the jury I'd find for the plaintiffs.

If you have been following the trial - which you obviously are - ESD in my opinion is negligent in their handling of Jane Doe II's situation and it looks like they could be guilty of ignoring other student's abuses based on today's article and FS coming forward earlier in the trial. If you think parents/students are coming forth for the money - I wouldn't expose my families personal life for any payoff. However, I would expose abuses that have been going on for years and spare future students of more abuse.

Sodas @ August 17, 2011 at [7:03 pm](#)

Nancy, you do act as if you are perfect. You always seem to think if anyone speaking against ESD has to be an attorney. Maybe you are a attorney for the defense or s board member. Like I said yesterday, I am in the financial office at a school and we would have been suspicious of over 8000 texts to one number, The problem with people like you is any thing negative against ESD is not their fault or the plaintiff attorneys and anything making the victim look bad is true. ESD can cross examine and the problem is that ESD does have a reputation for handling things poorly but you choose up blame it on everyone else. The fact she was 16 and then turned 17 soon the incident still makes it illegal so quit bringing it up. By the way, I do not know the victim or neither am I an attorney or friend of the plaintiff lawyers. I will owe you the same respect and not assume you are the attorney for the Defends.

Sodas @ August 17, 2011 at [7:11 pm](#)

Nancy, she was 16 when it started and then turned 17. The law states that a teacher can not have sex with a student of any age. So it still was illegal and the school failed with all their mistakes that are coming out show this. Maybe now the school can learn from this. You are so biased that if a 100 fifteen year olds came out saying they were abused, you would still not believe it; and blame it on the victims wanting money or being "sluts" or something like that.

holland @ August 17, 2011 at [7:37 pm](#)

There are faculty at ESD who had much more interaction with the trollop than the unnamed coach on the plaintiffs side, who I strongly suspect is a disgruntled former ESD employee dismissed because of her verbal and mental abuse of the girls team(s) she "coached". One only hopes that the school fights fire with fire when it is their turn on the stand.

The teacher, the strumpet and the parents are to blame. Simple as that.

Interested @ August 17, 2011 at [8:34 pm](#)

@Female Former Student: Fair trials can only occur when the parties engage honestly in the discovery process. If ESD and their attorneys did not provide the information about other abused students in response to a valid discovery request and ESD knew about it, then they violated the Rules of Civil Procedure. Such a violation is a sactionable offense and one such sanction is to let the testimony in without the benefit of a deposition or additional discovery. No party gets to hide the ball. As an aside, I'm a parent looking to send a child to private school in the not too distant future. If the parents and students who comment on these

posts represent the people at ESD, my daughter will be attending elsewhere.

EagleParent @ August 17, 2011 at [9:30 pm](#)

I have seen Aldous in action. I'd like for her to produce all the evidence of all these cases she has in an open court. She is a plaintiff's attorney. I believe her about as much as I believe that elephants can fly!

Sodas @ August 17, 2011 at [9:33 pm](#)

Holland, people like you who have to name call, can't win their discussion fairly so they resort to "slinging mud" at anyone who disagrees. Like I said in other posts, the defense has the ability to cross examine and obviously, they are not doing well because every day they look bad, or maybe they just did do the wrong thing and can't "fight fire with fire" because they have no "fire".

Interested your analysis is presented well unlike Hollands.

eagle-eyed @ August 17, 2011 at [9:52 pm](#)

@Interested: Private school students and parents are the same everywhere. If this happened at one of the other private schools, the reaction from the school community would be the same.

I suggest that you choose a school for your daughter by visiting campuses and meeting faculty and students and fairly evaluating the academics, athletics, and enrichment programs each school offers.

Better yet, let your daughter go where she feels comfortable. Prestige and reputation mean nothing if your daughter is not happy and thriving at school.

Amazed Observer @ August 17, 2011 at [10:50 pm](#)

@ Nancy, hang in there. Many of us agree with your comments. It is not difficult to see why so many young people fail to accept responsibility for their actions and/or decisions and want to blame others at every opportunity. They are simply following the examples set by their parents. "It can not be my fault so it must be the schools, teachers, coaches!" So, so Sad! Most agree this teacher's actions were disgusting, immoral and illegal and he should be prosecuted to the fullest extent. However, many of us do not agree that the negligent parents and their young daughter, who is unwilling to bear any responsibility for her bad choices, be rewarded \$10M

Really? @ August 17, 2011 at [10:51 pm](#)

Get your facts straight. Coach was not dismissed from ESD and has never been accused of any "abuse" or wrong doing. She has been asked to continue to coach at ESD. Stop slandering people and schools...especially when you don't have all the information.

Steve Smith @ August 17, 2011 at [10:54 pm](#)

@Holland, The coach was recruited away from a rival school several years ago where she had won a state championship. She was a college All-American, a college national champion, and considered by most in the girl's game, the best high school girls coach in Texas (ever). She also was offered a contract to return to coach at ESD next year, so she's not the sour former employee you want her so dearly to be. All that said, how's the Koolaid tasting, still flavorful?

Interestingly, her own children were ESD students, we should commend her backbone and honesty.

Nancy @ August 17, 2011 at [11:06 pm](#)

I get that you were making a joke, parent of 2 teens@ but what is the deal with Claire? Like making jokes about the schools attorneys. It does look odd to me. She does look bias as others have pointed out. IMO.

As far as people coming forward to stop future abuse well that is just silly. If they cared (and if they really exist) why didn't they come forward before? They only come out now when there might be money in it? And what is the risk to them really? I don't see it. The attorneys won't let their names be used because they may be "victims." How convenient. Pretty safe to lie about someone when your name isn't being used and you won't be held accountable for anything you say. I hope the judge throws that crap out as not relevant. It sure the heck isn't credible.

Excuse me? @ August 18, 2011 at [12:54 am](#)

Wow, Nancy and holland! Way to go! I think ESD should reprint these comments in a brochure about their "family." I can see it now, the slogan: the ESD family, putting "fun" in dysfunction for over 30 years!

You sound like cult members, TBH.

Do either of you realize how much trouble the attorney could be in for presenting false new allegations this far into a trial? A lot. I don't doubt that these are real claims. That would be four that are known...

One would be horrible, but I could see even having 2 unrelated terrible circumstances strike ESD. You start talking 3 and 4 and that is a big problem. The newspapers have to report things like this to inform and protect the community.

amanda @ August 18, 2011 at [6:15 am](#)

I'm sad to hear that there are potentially any other victims of abuse, anywhere. I hope the judge will be able to sort out the motions and do the best for the JDII, Former Student, and these other two.

I'm dreading the comments about this. Are those negligent parents and "trollops," too? Spin it anyway you wish, but this looks really, really bad. ESD supporters seem to be clinging onto the defendant's case. Several attorney friends are telling me that the attorneys for the school at this point are just seeking to mitigate what will be a finding of fault and award by a jury. This because the cross examinations haven't yielded much. Face it, there may be no "there, there" in defense of the school.

And, Nancy...regarding the towel...she could have opened the door nekkid. It doesn't mean Campbell, her TEACHER, had a right to rape her. And, yes, in the eyes of the law IT WAS RAPE. Just like a woman wearing a tube top and miniskirt can be raped. Just like a woman with a "past" can be raped. I have never in my life seen such a hard-hearted and foolish pride in a position.

It's been said on other threads, and is understood by many of us, less a few...predators actively seek places to fit in where there is lax oversight so they can "hunt" for victims. Given what has already come out in this case, I don't for a moment doubt that there are more victims. This should be a HUGE. RED. FLAG. for all ESD families, staff, and parents "shopping" for a school. I can't imagine how these people keep finding a place to ply their crimes against children unless the culture is such that they are free to do so.

And, for former students and alumni telling us we just don't understand. Yes we do. Really, we do. ESD isn't some magical special place annointed to be above common sense and the law.

Sodas @ August 18, 2011 at [10:30 am](#)

Amanda, that is the best analysis about ESD. They seem to think they are special and insult the victim while claiming they are Christians. They need to remove Episcopal from their name. Nancy and Holland probably would still blame the victim if she was 12. If she had a past and was not perfect it would be her fault. They are like a cult at ESD. To assume these other victims are for money is ridiculous. Where is all ESD evidence in the cross-examination, They dont have any. If you watched other court cases, you would see that is when they bring it out.

Retired Teacher @ August 18, 2011 at [11:18 am](#)

In a nut shell:

This could happen in ANY school.

The teacher is the bad guy.

Did he groom her? Or did she come on to him? Was it mutual? Doesn't matter, he crossed the line and she should have known better. They both acted stupidly, but a teenager acting stupid is to be expected, not a teacher.

Having worked in independent schools for over 30 years, I am sure that if ESD had any inkling of what was going on, they would have intervened. I doubt that the school can be shown to have been negligent.

Whether or not there was faculty/student training, would it have impacted this in any way? Not likely, it looks like we have two people committed to a sexual relationship even though they both know it is inappropriate and against the law.

Any independent school caught up in a similar situation would very likely ask/tell both parties to leave the school. The potential disruption of keeping this student on campus after all of this comes to light would not be in the best interest of anyone! Even the Dad considered this option.

I am sure that in the ESD student handbook, there is something that states the student could be dismissed for this or similar behavior, and it's likely that the parents acknowledged receiving the information.

A sad situation and the teacher will pay with prison time. Too bad the parents weren't more aware of their daughter's activities. They share in the culpability.

eagle-eyed @ August 18, 2011 at [11:33 am](#)

@amanda: Do you really think that ESD parents and students are uniquely hard-hearted and foolishly prideful?

I've got news for you: If this happened at any other Dallas private school, the parents and students would react the same. Parents and students at the other private schools are no angels.

All private schools have skeletons in their closets, and it's hypocritical to say parents shouldn't send their kids to ESD. Don't be so quick to judge, lest your school be judged.

eagle-eyed @ August 18, 2011 at [11:38 am](#)

@Retired Teacher: You are exactly right. Thanks for standing up to those who want to lay all the blame on ESD.

ESD Trial, Day 16 UPDATED | Preston Hollow People @ August 29, 2011 at [1:42 pm](#)

[...] Student alleging sexual abuse in the '90s, who Benson ruled could be called as a witness, and several other unverified reports by parents and students that Aldous learned about a few weeks [...]

