

## Keller J. Blackburn

Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

## **ACPO PRESS RELEASE**

From: Keller J. Blackburn, Athens County Prosecuting Attorney

Date: February 6, 2015 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Isaac Thomas**, 35, Athens, Ohio, appeared before Judge L. Alan Goldsberry on February 6, 2015, for the purpose of a plea and sentencing. Thomas entered a plea of guilty to a Bill of Information charging one (1) count of Sexual Battery, a felony of the third degree.

Prosecutor Blackburn reports that "Thomas, while employed by the Athens City School District, did engage in sexual relationship with a student."

Judge Goldsberry sentenced Thomas to the maximum possible prison term of five (5) years. Thomas was ordered to resign his position with the Athens City School District effective today, February 6, 2015, as well as to permanently surrender his teaching certificate. Upon his release from prison, Thomas will be subject to five (5) years of mandatory post-release control and Tier II sex offender registration requirements.

Prosecutor Blackburn further commented that "The Athens County Prosecutor's Office, Athens County Sheriff's Office and Athens County Children Services will conduct trainings in the near future with the school districts of Athens County to better recognize abuse, improve reporting and train staff to assist the victims of abuse.

This case was investigated by the Athens County Sheriff's Office and the Athens County Prosecutor's Office.