

Metro Briefing | New York: Manhattan: Rabbi Pleads Guilty To Indecency

By Susan Saulny (NYT); Compiled by Anthony Ramirez
Published: August 13, 2003

A rabbi who is an ethics expert pleaded guilty yesterday to attempting to arrange a sexual encounter with an undercover police officer who he thought was a 13-year-old girl. The rabbi, Israel Kestenbaum, of Highland Park, N.J., pleaded guilty to the attempted endangerment of a child and the attempted dissemination of indecent material to minors. The rabbi was an ethics watchdog for a national association of pastors, and was honored as a chaplain of the year for his work with recovery workers at ground zero. He withdrew his not-guilty plea as part of a plea deal. He could have faced four years in prison, but is expected to be sentenced in October to five years' probation with treatment and registration as a sex offender. Susan Saulny (NYT)

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