

# Haifa court sentences rabbi to 4 years for abusing students

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The Haifa District Court sentenced a rabbi to four-and-a-half years in prison on Friday for sexually, physically and emotionally abusing seven of his students, all of them between 4 and 6 years old.

Rabbi Nachman Weisfeld, 47, was convicted of abusing the children he was teaching at an ultra-Orthodox education institution, where he was supposed to be providing religious instruction.

The court also instructed Weisfeld to pay NIS 7,000 to each student in compensation for the abuse, which took place between 1995 and 1999, and handed him a two-and-a-half year suspended sentence.

The court determined that Weisfeld hit the children and threatened additional corporal punishment if they told their parents of the sexual abuse.

The judge rejected the defense attorney's argument that corporal punishment is considered acceptable in ultra-Orthodox schools.