

Ex-Principal Guilty of Molesting 6 Teen-Age Boys

By The Associated Press

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ROCKVILLE, Md., Aug. 7 -- The former principal of a private high school in Montgomery County, Md., who faked his own death while under investigation 17 years ago and fled the country under child abuse charges earlier this year, has pleaded guilty to molesting six teenage boys he met through the Big Brother program.

The former principal, David B. Harrington, pleaded guilty Wednesday to six counts of child abuse that were said to have occurred from 1979 to this year. He is to be sentenced by Judge James McAuliffe of the Montgomery County Circuit Court.

Mr. Harrington, a former principal of the Hebrew Academy of Greater Washington and who was a Montgomery County "Big Brother of the Year," was arrested Feb. 28 and charged with sexually molesting a 14-year-old boy who was his ward under the Big Brother program. The program unites fatherless boys with men willing to serve as male role models.

The defendant apparently fled the Washington area after being released on bond and later flew to the Bahamas when the authorities began filing new abuse charges against him as their investigation broadened.