

Teaching assistant convicted of assaulting autistic man faces new charges

Tracy McLaughlin



Corey Stibbard. (Facebook)

BARRIE – A former teaching assistant who was convicted of breaking a severely autistic student's leg is back in court accused of injuring another autistic student earlier this month.

Corey Stibbard, 35, of Angus, is charged with assault with a weapon for allegedly hitting his special needs ward in the head with a steel water bottle on Aug. 4.

Stibbard, who was fired from Simcoe County District School Board over his previous conviction, was working as a private caregiver and on an outing with Jared Clough, who is in his early 20s and non-verbal, when the alleged incident happened.

“The victim sustained substantial but non-life-threatening injuries to his head and face,” Barrie Police said in a statement.

Stibbard was released on \$5,000 bail and allowed to go home with his wife, who is a school teacher, with conditions he not work or volunteer with special needs persons or with children under age 16. The charges have not been proven in court.

Clough’s mother, Susan Clough, has declined to speak to media.

In April 2017, following a lengthy trial, Stibbard was convicted of assault causing bodily harm for kicking and shattering the tibia and fibula of his student, 20-year-old Riley Dooley, during a 2014 visit to a dollar store.



Riley Dooley is pictured in hospital after being treated for a shattered tibia and broken fibula. Handout photo

Dooley, a non-verbal person with ability of a two-year-old, lay on the floor quivering in pain in a pool of blood with his bones protruding through skin. He was rushed to hospital for surgery, in which steel rods were inserted to hold his bones together and he remained in a wheelchair for several months.

During his trial, Stibbard told court that working with special needs people was his “dream job” and he adamantly insisted he did not kick Dooley. However a

co-worker secretly recorded Stibbard when he said he was annoyed with Dooley, “so I f***ing kicked him.” In the same recording, Stibbard referred to another incident, and stated, “This is worse than what happened the last time.”

Stibbard was sentenced to 12 months in jail followed by one year of probation, which he was still on at the time of the new charges. He was further sentenced to another six months in jail for obstruction of justice after he attempted to pay witnesses to testify in court and lie for him. A second charge of witness tampering was dropped in exchange for the guilty plea.

Stibbard and the school board are in the midst of a civil suit launched by Dooley’s parents, who say their son is always in pain, walks with a limp and remains fearful of adults. Patty Dooley, of Oro, says she was shocked to hear of the new charges.

“Why was he allowed to take care of yet another vulnerable person?” she asked.

Stibbard will be back in court Aug. 28.