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**WHITMAN MAN AND FORMER CIRCUS COACH ARRAIGNED ON
CHARGES HE ASSAULTED MINOR**

BROCKTON – A Whitman man who operated a circus school has been charged with assaulting a 15 year-old, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz has announced.

Late yesterday, Steven Santos, 43, of Whitman was arraigned in Brockton District Court on three counts of Indecent Assault and Battery, 14 or Older, and one count of Assault and Battery by Means of a Dangerous Weapon. He pleaded not guilty to the charges and was held on \$7,500 cash bail. The Commonwealth requested that Santos be held on \$10,000 with the conditions that he stay away and have no contact with the victim or their family, and have no contact with any minor children, even with parental consent. Judge Paula Clifford set bail at \$7,500 cash and adopted the conditions.

Whitman Police arrested Santos yesterday at a home in Whitman. His arrest followed a several months-long investigation by Whitman Police into allegations that he sexually assaulted a former student. Santos, operated “Simply Circus,” a business in Newton that offers circus coaching and acrobatics training. The charges allege that in July and August, 2020, on four separate occasions, Santos sexually assaulted a former student. Santos is no longer employed with Simply Circus.

Santos is next scheduled to appear in court on March 19 for pretrial conference.

Anyone with any information is urged to contact Whitman Police Sergeant Peter Aitken at 781-447-1212.