

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

For Immediate Release

May 27, 2016

RN charged with taking photos of unconscious female teen patient

A 35 year old Registered Nurse pleaded not guilty today at his arraignment on one charge of unlawful surveillance in the second degree, Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said.

Nicholas P. Petrella of 45 Whalen Street in North Babylon was arrested at his home yesterday (5/26) by Suffolk County police detectives.

According to the criminal complaint, Petrella early last Friday morning (5/20) allegedly took photographs with his cell phone of the "intimate sexual parts" of an unconscious 17 year old female patient receiving care for alcohol intoxication in the emergency room of Good Samaritan Hospital in West Islip.

A nursing assistant told police he saw Petrella lift the patient's hospital gown and take the photos. The assistant promptly reported the incident to his supervisor.

Hospital officials suspended Petrella who has worked as a RN at Good Samaritan Hospital since 2008.

Judge Stephen Ukeiley set cash bail at \$7,500 and bond at \$15,000. A Stay Away Order of Protection was issued by the court.

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A criminal charge is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in a court of law.