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A former Middletown teacher who told a judge that he is a decent, religious man was sentenced to five years' probation yesterday for molesting two young girls. Robert Bellin, 56, pleaded guilty Wednesday to two charges of endangering the welfare of a child after one of the girls became emotionally unable to testify, screamed and fled as she was being led down the courthouse hallway. Bellin was charged with sexually assaulting that now 14-year-old girl when she was 7, and another girl, who is now 13, when she was 4. Bellin, of Bradley Beach, admitted fondling the girls' buttocks while carrying them in from the ocean. At the time of the offenses in 1989 and 1992, Bellin was a public school science teacher. He retired in 19--. Had Bellin been convicted of the more serious charges at issue in the trial, he could have faced more than 20 years in state prison. A plea deal identical to the current arrangement was thrown out by Superior Court Judge Vincent E. Hull after the victims' families protested, saying they wanted him to go to prison. But the families reluctantly agreed that the plea was the best alternative because the girl's inability to testify left the prosecution unable to prove half of its case. The mother of the 14-year-old told Hull yesterday, "I'm really upset that in order to work, the system needs to re-victimize the victim. I've spent years getting my daughter ready for this event, and she was unable. She was so traumatized by the presence of Mr. Bellin that she was unable, and I will not force her at that point by carrying her into the courtroom." She said she and her daughter are in "serious therapy," and that her daughter has nightmares and a lack of trust because of what happened. Speaking in a very quiet voice, Bellin told the judge, "I'm very sorry for all that happened, and I took so much of your time. And I really meant no harm to anybody. I am a decent person, a religious person, and I promise you will never hear from me again." Under questioning by Hull, Bellin said he is receiving therapy from his rabbi. Assistant Monmouth County Prosecutor Peter Boser told Hull that Bellin insinuated himself into the lives of the girls' families so that he could use the children for sexual purposes. Boser urged the judge to bar Bellin from any contact with the girls or their families, especially after Bellin waved at the families in the courtroom Thursday. Boser called the gesture "a stunningly inappropriate act that demonstrates he does not understand the attitude of these people toward him because of what he has done." Hull agreed to the ban, and also ordered that the defendant submit to psychological counseling and reimburse the 14-year-old girl's family for the cost of her therapy. The judge also ordered Bellin to register with the local police as a sex offender, in accordance with the requirements of Megan's Law.