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Butte County deputy arrested on suspicion of meeting teen for sex

A Butte County deputy has been arrested on suspicion of agreeing to meet a minor for sex after a sting conducted by the district attorney's office.

Deputy Earl Klapperich, 27, was arrested Friday by investigators from the Butte County District attorney's office. His arrest came after a complaint filed April 14 over the way Klapperich handled a call involving two reported runaway teens.

The complaint alleged inappropriate conduct on the part of the deputy toward the girls, one 16 years old, the other 14 years old.

The sheriff's department brought in the district attorney's office and an undercover operation began. The sting involved investigators posing as a 14-year-old girl.

The investigators initiated a text message conversation with Klapperich in which the deputy is alleged to have asked that the "girl" send him a nude picture of herself. Eventually, a meeting was arranged in Chico where Klapperich was taken into custody by district attorney investigators, according to a press release from the district attorney's office.

Klapperich said he agreed to the meeting in order to counsel the girl in the text messages, according to the press release. He faces potential charges of arranging a meeting with a minor for the purpose of engaging in lewd or lascivious behavior.

The deputy has been removed from duty. An internal affairs investigation is underway.

Categories: Sex Crime

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