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## L.A. County Sheriff's Deputy arrested, found with 15-year-old girl in parked car at 2 a.m. in San Fernando

By [Eric Hartley, Staff Writer](#)  
 Posted: 06/28/2012 02:17:40 PM PDT  
 Updated: 06/28/2012 04:43:05 PM PDT

A 39-year-old Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy was arrested early today after police said he was found in a parked car with a 15-year-old girl at 2 a.m. in San Fernando.

Deputy Richard Di Giovanni, an 11-year veteran, was booked on suspicion of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, San Fernando police said. The misdemeanor charge carries a maximum jail sentence of a year.

Di Giovanni has been relieved of duty with pay, a Sheriff's Department spokesman said.

The arrest was triggered after a woman who saw her teen granddaughter leave home with a man called San Fernando police, who put out a lookout for his vehicle.

Di Giovanni and the girl were found about 2 a.m. on Hubbard Street "doing nothing more than sitting there talking," said San Fernando's interim police chief, Gil Carrillo.

The deputy was booked at 7:57 a.m. and later posted bail.

Carrillo declined to say what police know about the nature of the relationship between Di Giovanni and the girl or how his behavior contributed to the delinquency of a minor.

Di Giovanni was booked under a broad statute that outlaws any action that could cause a minor to come under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.

Carrillo said the charge will be presented to the county District Attorney's Office for a decision on filing charges, perhaps as soon as Friday. If a felony charge is filed, the deputy will be suspended with pay, said Steve Whitmore, a Sheriff's



Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy Richard DiGiovanni

Department spokesman.

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Di Giovanni, who public records show lives in Canyon Country, could not be reached for comment.

He was given the department's Purple Heart after being shot in the line of duty in 2009 while chasing an armed man who already had fired at deputies in Lawndale.

The man was killed in a gun battle that featured 85 rounds being fired. DiGiovanni fired even after he was hit in the shoulder.

Whitmore said Di Giovanni will face an Internal Affairs investigation after the court case is over.

"The sheriff takes this very seriously," Whitmore said. "This does not go unnoticed."

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