

Exeter police officer suspected of having sexual contact with underage Explorer program member

Written by Eric Woomer and Kyle Harvey
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An Exeter police sergeant is behind bars on suspicion of having sex with a minor who was a member of the department's Explorer program, according to a news release from the Exeter Police Department.

Exeter Sgt. Jeff Detwiler was arrested Tuesday and booked at Tulare County's Pretrial Facility. He's being held on \$75,000 bail.

Detwiler, a 10-year veteran on the force, was an adviser for the Explorer Post. The department is conducting an internal investigation into the matter. The department also stated in the news release that there will be no further comment because it is a personnel issue.

"We appreciate the desire of the television news media for live or recorded interviews, however, no information beyond the above can be shared at this time and therefore no such interviews will be granted at this time. We respect your time and there is no need to waste it while only limited information is available," Cliff Bush, chief of Exeter police, stated in the release.

Because he's a police officer, jail officials felt the need to separate the 46-year-old Detwiler from the general population, generally held at the Main Jail in Visalia.

Detwiler is expected to be in court today for his arraignment. The hearing will take place at the Pretrial Facility, 36650 Road 112.

Detwiler is accused of having sex with a minor. He is also facing charges that he intimidated a witness and had of a controlled substance on him when arrested.