

Seminole deputy knew Indian River teen he solicited for sex

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A Seminole County deputy is out of jail, charged with soliciting a teen for sex.

Earlier this month, the father of a 17-year-old female told the Indian River County Sheriff's Office his daughter was contacted for sex by 28-year-old David Rodriguez.

News 13 has learned the deputy and the teenager have known each other since she was 6 years old through karate tournaments.

But, investigators say the sexual conversations didn't start until last year.

Investigators say Rodriguez has admitted he contacted the girl for sex, but said he was going to quote "keep trying to put off meeting her for sex until she was 18 years old."

We've learned Deputy Rodriguez and his wife just had a baby two weeks ago, and that he has been with the Seminole County Sheriff's Office since February of 2010.

But the sheriff's office tells us they have already begun the process of terminating him.

During a July 23 interview in Seminole, Rodriguez admitted to contacting the girl for sex.

Rodriguez surrendered Thursday night on one charge of lewd computer solicitation of a child.

He was booked into the Seminole County Jail and released on \$50,000 bond around 8:45 p.m.

"We are grateful for the assistance and cooperation we have received from the Seminole County Sheriff's Office," said Indian River Sheriff Deryl Loar. "Sheriff Eslinger and his employees have shown that, like us, they are serious about policing the police. Detective Shepherd has had the arduous task of arresting a fellow law enforcement officer. We applaud his efforts and his work in this case."