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Ex-fugitive free on bail in sex case

August 05, 2006 | By LARRY WELBORN

A former police officer who voluntarily returned to the United States after more than three years as a fugitive to face trial on a charge of sexual contact with a teenage girl was allowed to remain free Friday on \$150,000 bail.

Jason David Rosewarne, 35, is charged with improper sexual activity with a girl in the Anaheim Police Explorer program in 2002. He faces a potential three-year prison term if convicted.

Rosewarne was listed on the Orange County district attorney's Ten Most Wanted list until he returned to California last month after living in England - where he has dual citizenship - for more than three years.

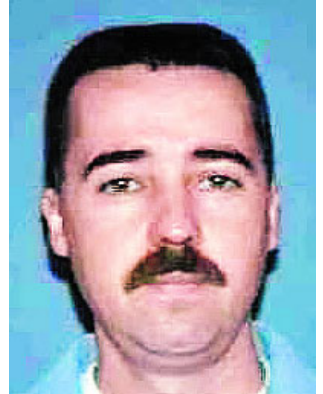
"I just wanted closure in this case," he said Friday outside a Westminster courtroom. "I don't want anything hanging over my head."

Rosewarne, who operated a pub in Devon, England, while he was a fugitive, could have continued living there without fear of extradition because the crime he is charged with here is not against the law in the England, defense attorney Ron Cordova said.

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HANDOUT PHOTO

The age of consent in England is 16, Cordova said, while the girl in the Explorer program was 17 in 2002, when prosecutors say the offense was committed.

Orange County Superior Court Commissioner Richard Pacheco scheduled a pretrial hearing for Rosewarne on Sept. 8.

Deputy District Attorney Kal Kaliban says Rosewarne sent sexual text messages and engaged in sexual conversations with the Explorer that led to kissing, fondling and other sexual contact.

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