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Sheriff/s deputy denies molestation

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July 12, 2006 12:00 am • [Quintin Cushner/Senior Staff Writer](#)

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A suspended Santa Barbara County sheriff/s deputy pleaded not guilty Tuesday to five counts of sexually assaulting a 15-year-old girl while on the job.

Jon Charles Holm, 31, of Santa Maria allegedly molested the girl, now 16 and living in North County, between Nov. 8 and Dec. 15.

For safety reasons, Holm is being housed at San Luis Obispo County Jail. Holm is scheduled to appear before Superior Court Judge James Iwasko in Lompoc on Thursday in a bid to have his ,500,000 bail reduced.

A preliminary hearing in the case is set for July 25.

Holm, who is on paid administrative leave, has worked at the Department for four years, according to sheriff/s Sgt. Erik Raney.

The man/s defense attorney, William Pardee, said in a statement the charges are false.

“(Holm) denies unequivocally that he ever had a sexual relationship with a 15-year-old female,C Pardee wrote. “... It is not understood why the Santa Barbara County Sheriff/s Department is pursuing a case.C

Pardee said that Holm reached out to the accuser after arresting her on suspicion of a drug offense. The defense attorney alleges Holm then had a falling out with the girl/s family, who

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threatened to report a sexual relationship between the deputy and the girl.

Deputy District Attorney Jerry McBeth declined comment on the case outside of court.

He did mention Tuesday at Holm/s arraignment that law enforcement had DNA evidence of the alleged crimes.

Holm, who is married with five young sons, was arrested July 17 at the Santa Maria Sheriff/s Substation, Raney said. He had been assigned to the North County Operations Division and worked out of the Lompoc Valley and Santa Ynez Valley stations.

The Sheriff/s Department began its investigation of Holm in June, Raney said.

The Santa Maria Times, following its established policy, does not identify alleged victims of sexual abuse.

Quintin Cushner can be reached at 739-2217 or

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July 12, 2006

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