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Ex-cop who molested underage teen gets prison

BY CRAIG KAPITAN
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A former San Antonio Park Police officer was sentenced to four years in prison Thursday, nearly five years after he was accused of molesting a teen and giving her a sexually transmitted disease.

Ricardo Rodriguez, 42, pleaded no contest to indecency with a child by contact in November as part of a plea deal in which five additional counts were dropped and his maximum possible sentence was reduced to five years.

His attorney Thursday had asked state District Judge **Lori Valenzuela** for deferred adjudication probation.

The victim, now 21, said she was repeatedly molested by Rodriguez for two years starting when she was 14. She tested positive for the same strain of genital herpes that Rodriguez has, according to court documents.

Rodriguez initially pleaded not guilty and took the case to trial in October 2009, but a mistrial was declared after the jury couldn't reach a decision. Under terms of the plea agreement, he was also ordered to permanently surrender his law enforcement license.

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