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## Former Woodbridge cop admits taking semi-nude photos of teenage girl

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By **Ryan Hutchins/The Star-Ledger**  
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WOODBIDGE -- A former Woodbridge police officer who was convicted last month of sexually assaulting a teenage boy over a three-year period pleaded guilty to additional charges today, admitting he took nude and semi-nude photos of a 15-year-old girl he met while on duty, authorities said.

Douglas Karlson, 49, was found guilty on June 19 of aggravated sexual assault and sexual assault in the third trial he had on the counts in as many years.



Ed Murray/The Star-Ledger

Former Woodbridge police officer Douglas Karlson is handcuffed in Middlesex County Superior Court in New Brunswick after his conviction last month of sexually assaulting a teenage boy. Today, he admitted taking pictures of a 15-year-old girl.

Today, he pleaded guilty to second-degree counts of official misconduct and endangering the welfare of a child for shooting the photos he took for his own benefit, according to the Middlesex County

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Prosecutor's Office.

Thomas Buck of Milltown, Karlson's attorney, said today he had no comment regarding the guilty plea but that he had worked with the Prosecutor's Office to arrange the deal. He intends to appeal the June conviction.

Assistant Prosecutor Christie Bevacqua had negotiated the plea agreement, which calls for Karlson to serve up to six years in prison when he is sentenced on Sept. 21 by Superior Court Judge Frederick DeVesa at the Middlesex County Courthouse in New Brunswick.

He'll be sentenced the same day for sexually assaulting the teenage boy in Old Bridge during the 1990s, and faces up to 20 years in prison on those counts.

In the photo trial, the Old Bridge man admitting he took numerous nude and semi-nude photos of the girl, "knowing that his conduct was unlawful and that the photos were pornographic," the Prosecutor's Office said in a statement. He was on duty and responding to an incident at the victim's home when he met her.

Karlson was tried three times on the sex assault charges -- the first time ended in a hung jury and the second time he was convicted, but the conviction was overturned. He was tried in July 2006 on the charges involving the boy as well as charges involving the 15-year-old girl.

In that trial, he was convicted of official misconduct and three counts of child endangerment for taking photographs of the teenage girl in a variety of poses, wearing sheer nightgowns and in the nude with her hands covering herself. The jury was unable to reach a verdict on the charges involving the teenage boy and he was retried on those charges several months later and convicted.

An appeals panel overturned both convictions last August, ruling the Prosecutor's Office should not have presented both cases to the same grand jury and included them in one indictment against Karlson. He spent 19 months of a 17-year sentence in state prison before his convictions were overturned.

*Star-Ledger staff writer Sue Epstein contributed to this report.*

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