

Former Riverside deputy expected to be sentenced to a year in jail

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RIVERSIDE - A former Riverside County sheriff's deputy who pleaded guilty to assaulting an underage girl is expected to be sentenced to a year in jail, a prosecutor said today.

Raymond Cesar Vidales, 45, pleaded guilty Tuesday to assault with a deadly weapon and having unlawful intercourse with a minor. He was arrested in June 2008, after his former girlfriend's daughter accused him of molesting her three years earlier, when she was 16 years old.

Vidales, who worked as a sheriff's correctional deputy at the Robert Presley Detention Center in Riverside, was originally charged with two counts of sexual battery, two counts of sexual penetration with a foreign object and

annoying a child. The District Attorney's Office later amended the complaint, adding the assault and unlawful intercourse charges, both felonies.

The defendant's attorney, Michael Stone, who specializes in representing criminally charged law enforcement officers, negotiated a plea agreement with the District Attorney's Office, leading Judge Mark Johnson to dismiss the original charges.

"The charges to which he pled reflect the same conduct," said Deputy District Attorney Will Robinson.

Under the plea deal, Vidales will serve a maximum of one year in county jail, but perhaps less, depending on what the Probation Department recommends in its pre-sentencing report, according to Robinson.

A sentencing hearing is set for March 1.

Vidales began working for the sheriff's department in 1986. He was placed on administrative leave immediately after his arrest and left the department last August, according to sheriff's officials.

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Lee in Virginia

Comment #1 | Monday, Jan 18, 2010 at 7:07 pm

A whole year for sexual assault of a minor. I guess cops can't get a break in Riverside.

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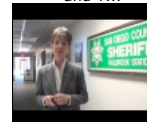
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