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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA -- THIS JUST IN

Airport police officer arrested for alleged child molestation

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A man employed as a Los Angeles airport police officer has been arrested for allegedly touching a 14-year-old girl inappropriately at a foster care home in Inglewood operated by his mother, authorities said today.

Police went to the home in the 9300 block of 11th Avenue near the Hollywood Park race track Tuesday afternoon to investigate a possible sexual assault, said Mike McBride of the Inglewood Police Department.

The teen alleged that Devin Staten had touched her in an "inappropriate way" late Monday night, McBride said.

The foster care home is owned and operated by Staten's mother. Two 18-year-old foster girls and a 10-year-old foster boy also live at the home, McBride said. There were no further reports of misconduct at the home aside from Tuesday's alleged incident, he said.

Investigators say they have notified officials with the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services.

Staten, 31, works for the Los Angeles Airport Police Department and lives at the house in a converted garage, McBride said. He was released from the Inglewood jail on \$20,000 bail.

A spokesman for the airport police did not return phone calls seeking comment.

-- Ruben Vives

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
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