

RIVERSIDE: Ex-police officer convicted of molestation

10:00 PM PDT on Monday, October 18, 2010

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The Press-Enterprise

A former Riverside police officer was convicted Monday of six counts of child molestation for fondling a female relative.

Anthony Wayne Fletcher, 39, of Eastvale, was found guilty after a two-week trial on three felony counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a child and three misdemeanor counts of child molestation, according to court records.

Fletcher, who worked as a Riverside police weapons expert, was arrested in December after the charges were filed. Riverside County sheriff's deputies conducted a four-month investigation in the case.

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The girl, who is now 18, said Fletcher fondled her breasts while he thought she was asleep on multiple occasions for two years, beginning when she was 15, according to court records.

The girl, whose name police have not released, didn't report the molestations until last year because she said she didn't want to upset her other relatives.

She finally came forward after allegations were made that Fletcher was having an extramarital affair, according to court records.

Fletcher testified at the trial and denied the allegations, defense attorney Chad Firetag said.

Firetag said the case was the girl's word against Fletcher's, and the defense may pursue an appeal after sentencing.

Fletcher remained employed with the Riverside Police Department through the investigation and after his arrest. He was terminated following an investigation by the department.

Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 3.

A judge could sentence Fletcher to up to four years in prison. He remains free on bond.

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