

# Riverside police officer faces child molestation charges

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By PAUL LAROCCO  
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A Riverside police officer is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday on charges he molested a teenage girl.

Anthony Wayne Fletcher, 38, of Eastvale, was arrested Dec. 24 by Riverside County sheriff's detectives. He faces three felony counts of lewd and lascivious acts with a minor and three misdemeanors of annoying/molesting a child.

The incidents in the complaint took place in August, according to a criminal complaint filed in Riverside County Superior Court.

The girl, now 17, said Fletcher fondled her breasts numerous times over two years, all when he believed she was sleeping, sheriff's investigators wrote in a declaration in support of an arrest warrant.

Fletcher's attorney, Mark Johnson, did not return requests for comment Friday. In a brief interview with detectives on Oct. 22, Fletcher denied the allegations, according to the declaration.

The Riverside police weapons expert remains employed by the department, officials said Friday. They declined to comment further.

Sheriff's investigators received the case on Oct. 19, after the girl made the allegations first to a friend and then to her mother, according to the arrest warrant declaration.

The teen said she kept the secret for a long time because she didn't want to hurt her relatives, Investigator Chris Barajas wrote. After learning of a dispute between Fletcher and another family member, she told her mother, the declaration states.

*Reach Paul LaRocco at 951-368-9468 or [plarocco@PE.com](mailto:plarocco@PE.com)*