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## Former Probation Officer to Stand Trial on Sex Charges

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A former Riverside County Probation officer from La Quinta was ordered Tuesday to stand trial on 59 counts of sexual assault.

Donald Joseph Monplaisir, 54, was charged in March for the crimes that allegedly took place against a female relative between 1990 and 1994.

Monplaisir is charged with 47 counts of rape by force and a dozen counts of lewd acts with a child under 16 years old.

"The abuse began to occur consistently when the victim was sent to live with Monplaisir in his home in La Quinta," said Michael Jeandron of the Riverside County District Attorney's Office. "Monplaisir told the victim that he was teaching her about sex and that it was normal for relatives to have sexual intercourse."

After hearing testimony from the alleged victim Tuesday, Riverside County Superior Court Judge Richard Erwood ruled there was enough evidence to proceed to trial.

The judge ordered Monplaisir to return to court on June 1 for a post- indictment arraignment.

During a March 3, 2009, recorded conversation, Monplaisir allegedly acknowledged the sexual abuse and told the alleged victim he was sorry for hurting her and regretted his actions, describing himself as a "monster," according to court papers.

When confronted by investigators two days later, Monplaisir denied having a sexual relationship with the family member.  
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