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## Former Tacoma cop guilty of child molestation

4 counts: He molested young female relative, could face 16-plus years

STACEY MULICK; Staff writer

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A Pierce County jury Friday convicted a former Tacoma police officer of molesting a young female relative several years ago.

Jurors returned their verdict against John H. Parkes, 46, after deliberating for less than a day. They convicted Parkes of four counts of first-degree child molestation but acquitted him of a fifth count.

Parkes, who resigned as a Tacoma police officer in June 2010 after the charges were filed, has maintained his innocence throughout the process and testified in his own defense during the trial, said Casey Arbenz, one of Parkes' defense attorneys.

He adamantly denied the allegations," Arbenz said. "At this point, he feels the system has failed him."

Prosecutors alleged Parkes inappropriately touched the girl and made her touch him in a sexual manner between 1996 and 2003. The girl's mother reported the allegations to Tacoma police in early 2010.

Jurors started their deliberations Thursday afternoon. The fact that Parkes used to be a police officer was not mentioned during the trial, the attorneys said.

Parkes was taken into custody after the verdict. He is being held in Pierce County Jail on no bail until he is sentenced Oct. 14, deputy prosecutor Heather DeMaine said.

Parkes faces 12 years, four months to 16 years, six months in prison and a lifetime requirement of registering as a sex offender once he is released.

Arbenz said his client plans to appeal.

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