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Father of alleged victim speaks about deputy porn charges

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By Jason Miles - bio | email

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WYNNE, AR (WMC-TV) - The family of a 13-year-old girl who claimed a sheriff's deputy showed her pornography spoke out Thursday about the alleged crime.

"It's one of those situations where it's sick," said an Arkansas father who did not show his face in order to protect the identity of his stepdaughter and her friend.

"They're children, 12 and 13" he said. "They're not grown adults."

Howard "Keith" Vaughn and his wife, Bethany, are both accused of showing the children pornographic materials inside their home on June 17.

"I was in disbelief," said the father of his initial reaction.

At the time, Keith Vaughn was a deputy with the Cross County Sheriff's Department in Wynne, Arkansas. He was already in trouble for failing a random drug test.

"You know, you're supposed to look up to people like that," said the father, "and trust people like that."

The Cross County Sheriff declined an interview but said Vaughn was suspended weeks ago. It was during that time that the sex allegations came up.

Vaughn's wife is allegedly related to one of the girls. The families had no reason to be alarmed until they heard a visit to the Vaughn house may have included the viewing of an X-rated movie.

"All four of them were in the same room and they put in a porno for 45 minutes," the father said. "You know, it's sick."

The girls claimed then deputy Vaughn ordered them not to tell their parents. The stepfather is glad the ignored him.

"It seems like he was grooming them for the next visit," he said. "That's possibly the case."

Keith and Bethany Vaughn were released on bond. The Arkansas State Police are in charge of the investigation.

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