



Former Trenton police officer sentenced to two years probation for child abuse

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Jenna Pizzi/The Times of Trenton

By

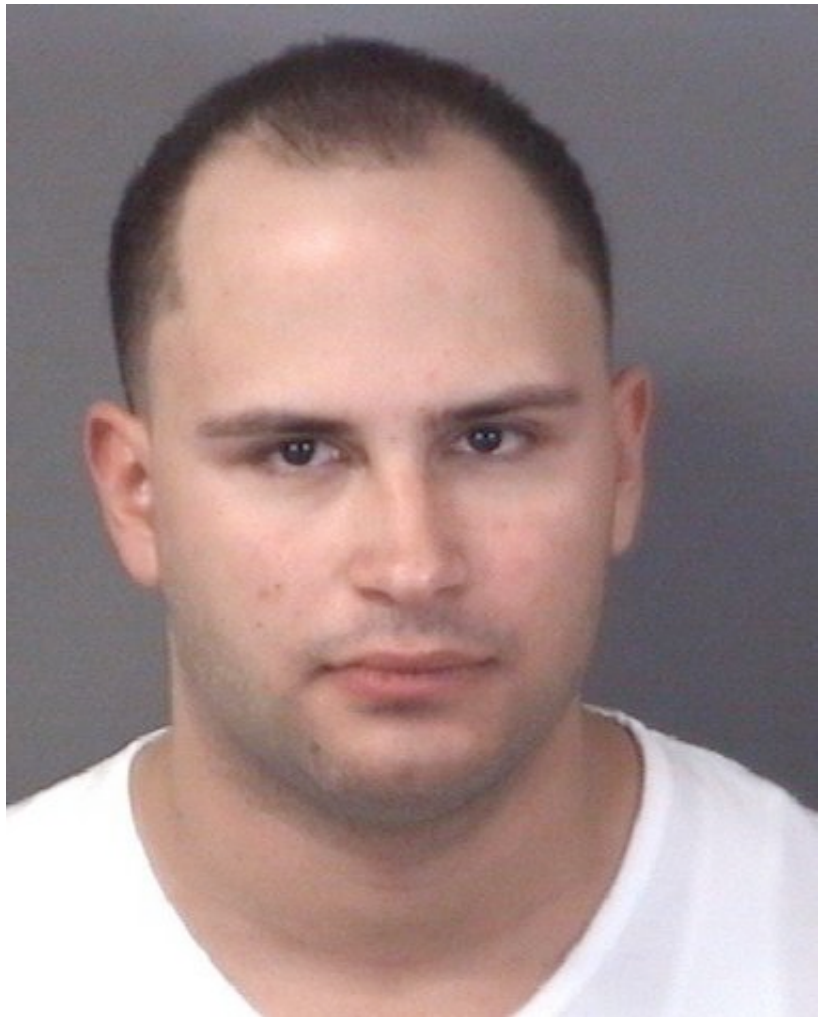
TRENTON – A former Trenton police officer who had sex with a 14-year-old girl in 2010 was sentenced to two years probation this morning.

Lisandro Otero-Ortiz, 27, pleaded guilty in June to one count of fourth-degree abuse of a child as part of a plea deal with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office. He was sentenced this morning before Judge Thomas Brown in Superior Court.

The deal called for the dismissal of several charges including sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child. If he had not accepted the plea deal, Otero-Ortiz faced a maximum of 15 years in prison.

Casey DeBlasio, spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office, said today that the victim, who was a relative of Otero-Ortiz, did not want to pursue prosecution of the sexual assault allegations.

In addition to the two year probationary sentence, Brown ordered that Otero-Ortiz is to have no contact with the victim and to undergo a drug and alcohol dependence evaluation. Otero-Ortiz, who was wearing grey sweatpants and a hooded sweatshirt during the hearing, did not make any official statement to the court.



Former Trenton police officer Lisandro Otero-Ortiz was charged with sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl.

Otero-Ortiz was off-duty at a Trenton residence in June 2010 when he and the girl drank alcohol before the incident. The sex does not appear to have been forcible, DeBlasio said.

Otero-Ortiz, a Trenton resident, worked for the police department for four years before he was arrested in the fall of 2010 by detectives from the prosecutor's office.

As a patrol officer in the West district, he earned a \$50,480 salary in 2009. Following his arrest Otero-Ortiz was suspended from his job without pay. He is no longer employed by the department.

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