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Former Corpus Christi police officer sentenced to two years in prison for indecency with a child

By Michelle Villarreal

Posted August 23, 2011 at 10:55 a.m., updated August 23, 2011 at 6:36 p.m.

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CORPUS CHRISTI — A former [Corpus Christi police](#) officer was convicted and sentenced on Tuesday to two years in prison for indecency with a child.

Raul Rodriguez, 47, faced three counts of indecency with a child, a second-degree felony. A jury convicted him on one count related to allegations that he touched a 12-year-old girl's breasts during an ATV ride last summer.

He was acquitted on the other two counts — one that accused him of touching the 12-year-old girl's genitals and the other related to a second accuser's allegations. That woman has said Rodriguez touched her breasts when she was a girl in 2002.

Jurors deliberated nearly 3 1/2 hours to reach the sentence.

He faced as many as 20 years in prison and as much as a \$10,000 fine.

Before Rodriguez was taken to jail, the 12-year-old's mother had a few parting words for him. She said one minute changed her daughter's life and then read pages from her daughter's journal. The girl, now 14, wrote the journal entries after the ATV ride.

"When people ask me how I feel about myself, I tell them I don't like myself," she read. "I wish I could go hide in a corner somewhere. Why did Raul do this to me?"

The mother asked Rodriguez how he would feel if someone did that to his daughter.

Rodriguez testified last week that he never inappropriately touched the girl and didn't know the other accuser.

The longtime police officer retired from the department last year after the accusations surfaced.

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Prosecutor Kim Gonzalez said she was happy with the verdict.

"We asked for more (prison) time but we respect the decision of the jury," she said.

Rodriguez's attorney, Keith Gould, said he disagreed with the verdict but knew the jury had been dedicated and hard working.

Gould added that he wasn't sure if there would be an appeal.

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10:59 a.m.

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stxautism writes:

Not surprised. Saw CC Firefighter convicted of sexual assault about 4 or 5 years ago. Cop or no cop, usually when you have more than 1 person making allegations, there is some bit of truth to them. There are 2 in this instance, so there is probably be some truth to it.

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Wind: NW 18mph

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65°

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Art Center of Corpus Christi, 100 Shoreline Blvd.

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Hazel Bazemore County Park

10:30 a.m.

Gulf Breeze Alpaca Ranch open house

Gulf Breeze Alpaca Ranch

1 p.m.

Kingsville theater presents "Same as Sarah"

Little Theater at Texas A&M University-Kingsville

2 p.m.

All-Debussy Recital with Del Mar College Faculty

Art Museum of South Texas, 1902 N. Shoreline Blvd.

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