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## Ex-cop arrested in child-sex sting

**Detective: 7,000 in ABQ download child porn daily**

Updated: Saturday, 18 Jun 2011, 1:54 PM MDT  
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Reporter: [Alex Tomlin](#)

ALBUQUERQUE (KRQE) - Feds say he wanted the 13-year-old daughter, and he thought the girl's mother was going to set him up with her. He's an ex-cop, and turns out, the "mom" is a current cop.

Federal agents said James Ritterhoff had disturbing plans. The Albuquerque man even wanted what he thought was the mother to leave her door unlocked so he could sneak into their home and rape the girl.

Feds said Ritterhoff was trolling a chat room where girls look for older men, and he met a single mother who wanted to offer her two daughters up for sex. That mom was really a cop.

Ritterhoff originally told the undercover detective that he was living in Missouri. That's where he is originally from, but the feds quickly learned he was in Albuquerque.

You'd think he'd know better. Ritterhoff used to be a deputy in Missouri and had gone through the police academy.

He's now an armed guard for a company that transports money from ATMs to banks.

The federal criminal complaint shows some of Ritterhoff's graphic messages. First he plotted with the "mom" to break into her home and rape her daughters. Then he starts chatting with what he thinks is the 13-year-old daughter. It's really the same detective,

He said he wants to be her boyfriend, calls her his baby girl and tried to pit her against her mom. He also asks for

0

3

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nude photos as he sends her child-porn videos.

The undercover cop even offered to set Ritterhoff up with a New Mexico girl. Ritterhoff looked into renting an RV so he could rape the girl out in the desert where no one would hear her screams.

Albuquerque police, who also do this kind of undercover work, said this is nothing new to them.

"In Albuquerque, at least at a minimum, 7,000 people are downloading child pornography every day," said Child Exploitation Detective Gerald Shelden.

Shelden said the really scary thing, "How many of those 7,000 are going hands-on with kids?"

Ritterhoff is in federal custody. He won't see a judge until Monday.

Ritterhoff told the undercover cop if police ever came after him for being a pedophile, he'd take himself out before they could arrest him. He obviously didn't mean it.

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**critterhoff**

yes what he did was really bad but it was all just talk on the internet and so far he as anyone knows he didnt even talk to anyone under 18 he was talking to a cop the whole time, and yes he deserves punishment but that doesnt mean the death penalty,... [\[show more\]](#)

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**chelsea\_dorcas**

oh my goodness people are so gross and have some mental issues and those kind of people need the death penatly

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**colbrimom**

ok not that I will condone what he did, BUT he did not actually touch anyone. The only thing he did was talk to someone he had never met it person over the internet. No the fact that he had child porn in his computer IS wrong, but to call him a child... [\[show more\]](#)

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**critterhoff**

ok first he is not convicted, he was caught just talking online he never hurt a child, hes not on the registry because hes not a sex offender, you cant judge someone because of what the news says...

2 MONTHS AGO • 1 REPLY

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**msarmijo**

ARE U KIDDING ME??? This man is a disgrace to all men to all humans!! Regardless if he actually touched anyone or not. He's a sick creature who should be put down. I hope he goes to jail and they can show him what a perverted child porn rapist gets!!!!

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**Gillian09**

This man, James Ritterhoff, lived right next door to me. I have a 10 year old child and there are other children that live in this apt triplex. I can not believe that a child rapist lived right next door. I had no idea. I have looked up the... [\[show more\]](#)

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**nbk5txb**

Sad to say, nothing will be made out of this case. New Mexico is one of the only places to get away with all kinds of crimes, that is why the crime rate is so high here. I wish I could aford to move out of this \*\*\*\* hole. :o(

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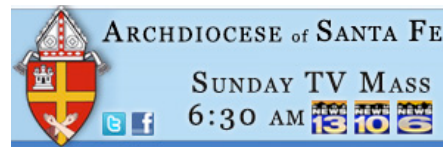
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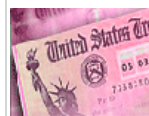
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