

## Former sheriff's deputy Gastineau guilty on all teen sex charges

By Lori Fowler, *The Sun*  
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SAN BERNARDINO >> It took three weeks to conduct the trial for former sheriff's Deputy Nathan Gastineau.

And it took three hours for the jury to return with guilty verdicts.

On Wednesday, jurors convicted the former San Bernardino County sheriff's deputy of 16 counts of unlawful sex with a teen Explorer and one count of possessing child pornography.

Gastineau, who was free on \$350,000 bail, stared straight ahead as the judge read the verdict in San Bernardino Superior Court.

Deputy District Attorney Bobbie Mann said she was pleased with the verdict.

"Justice was done," she said. "The defendant will be held accountable for his actions. The victim is vindicated."

Gastineau was charged with 17 counts — six counts of lewd acts with a child when the girl was 15 years old, 10 counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with a minor when the girl was 16 years old and one count of possessing child pornography.

Since he was convicted of all counts, Gastineau faces a maximum of 13 years in state prison, lawyers said. A number of the charges will require the defendant to register as a sex offender.

Gastineau is scheduled to be sentenced on Feb. 28.

Defense attorney Andrew Haynal said he plans to appeal.

"Naturally, we're disappointed," Haynal said after the verdict. "There are some appellate issues we can present to the court of appeals."

Haynal said he objected to the judge allowing seven additional counts to be filed by the prosecution halfway through the trial. He also said evidence was not allowed to be entered that could have helped his client.

Gastineau, now 30, worked out of the sheriff's Highland station. He met the girl in 2010 when she was 15 and he supervised the Explorer program at the station.

The girl testified during the trial that the two had sex in Gastineau's apartment about once a week

from October 2010 to April 2011.

Gastineau, who originally pleaded not guilty to all the charges, admitted on the witness stand to having sex with the girl once, when she was 16 years old, on March 5, 2011. Photos and a video of the two having sex were found on the defendant's hard drive, authorities said.

"It sounds like the video and still pictures were quite compelling (to the jurors)," Haynal said.

Haynal also objected to showing the video to jurors. But the prosecutor told jurors during closing arguments that the video suggests Gastineau and the girl had had sex several times, based on the language used and their level of comfort with each other.

After the verdict was read, the defense requested that Gastineau stay out on bail until the sentencing,

But Judge William Jefferson Powell revoked Gastineau's bail and ordered that the defendant be remanded to the sheriff's custody without bond. Staff writer Greg Cappis contributed to this report.