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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA -- THIS JUST IN

### Deputy accused of having sex with teen relative pleads no contest

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A Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy charged with engaging in sex acts with a teenage relative pleaded no contest Tuesday, according to the district attorney's office.

Orlando Denison, 35, pleaded to one count of oral copulation of a person under 18. He was arrested by Long Beach police after an incident in July 2010 in which he was accused of sexually abusing a 16-year-old girl.

Denison joined the Sheriff's Department in April 2007 and worked at the Pitchess Detention Center's south facility in Castaic, according to sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore.

Whitmore said the jailer is currently relieved of duty without pay, though the process to fire him has begun.

"Once again it's absolutely not just illegal but inexcusable. It reminds all of us that nobody is above the law," Whitmore said. "It should not impugn the outstanding jobs that scores of deputy sheriffs do every day."

Romero is set to begin serving a one-year county jail term, prosecutors said, along with five years of felony probation and lifetime sex offender registration. A second count of oral copulation of a person under 18 was dismissed at sentencing as part of the deputy's negotiated settlement.

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-- Robert Faturechi

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