

Suspended Butte Sheriff Deputy Now Faces Child Porn Charges



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CHICO — A Butte County sheriff's deputy, who was arrested last month on suspicion of arranging to meet a minor for sex, is now facing a child pornography charge.

Earl William Klapperich, 27, had been under investigation since mid-April after the Butte County Sheriff's Office received a complaint about alleged inappropriate conduct toward two girls, age 14 and 16, that he had been ir contact with over runaway issues.

Klapperich was arrested after detectives set up a sting involving communications via text through an undercover officer impersonating a 14-year-old girl.

But now District Attorney Mike Ramsey says investigators have found pictures of Klapperich engaging in sexual acts with children on his cell

phone. He now faces one count of possession of child pornography and two counts of contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Ramsey says more charges are possible and that the victims in the pictures are not from Butte County.

Klapperich was scheduled to be arraigned in Butte County Superior Court Friday. But his arraignment was delayed to June 20.

Meantime, the Siskiyou County Sheriff's Office is also looking into Klapperich's conduct.

He worked there between July of 2008 and June 2010.

Klapperich worked undercover as a high school student in a major drug sting operation in 2009. Detectives are working to determine whether he was ever inappropriate with anyone while working there, especially with young women.

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