

# Ex-Tulare County jail guard attacks detective in court

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A former correctional deputy for the Tulare County Sheriff's Office on trial for child molestation attacked a detective in court Wednesday as guilty verdicts were being read against him.

Bailiffs jumped on Michael Risenhoover, 34, and used an electronic stun gun to subdue him.

According to the Sheriff's Office, after a few of the verdicts had been read in the Visalia courtroom, Risenhoover lunged past his attorney and grabbed the Tulare County sheriff's detective who investigated the case against him.

The detective was about six to eight feet away.

"Risenhoover was able to reach the detective's neck, then attempted to grab her service weapon," the Sheriff's Office said.

The incident happened about 11 a.m. in the courtroom of Tulare County Superior Court Judge Gerald Sevier.

Extra bailiffs were on hand because of the sensitivity of the case, Risenhoover's knowledge of courtroom security and statements he has made, the Sheriff's Office said.

The detective, a 13-year veteran, was not greatly harmed and is on leave pending an investigation, the Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Risenhoover was taken out of the courtroom, then brought back to hear the rest of the verdicts.

He was found guilty of six counts of child molestation, two counts of forcible child molestation and two counts of sexual intercourse with a child age 10 or younger, the Tulare County District Attorney's Office said. The jury also found true that he had substantial sexual contact with a child under 14.

Risenhoover faces up to 84 years to life in prison when he is sentenced Nov. 27. He also faces new charges of battery against a peace officer and trying to stop an executive officer from doing official duty, which can be charged as a felony, for the courtroom incident.

Risenhoover is being held at the Kings County Jail.