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Relative accuses ex-cop of years of sexual molestation

May 8, 2012 | By Rafael Olmeda, Sun Sentinel

A former Seminole Police Department officer accused of molesting a female family member apparently suffered a medical emergency after he came face to face with his accuser Tuesday.

The woman, now 20, told a Broward jury how Ronald Baker, 49, molested her from the time she was 8 or 9 until the abuse was reported to the Sunrise Police Department in October 2008, when she was 17. To protect her privacy, the Sun Sentinel is not naming the woman or her relationship to Baker.

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Medical attention was sought for Baker on Tuesday afternoon, more than an hour after the woman finished testifying and Assistant State Attorney Adriana Alcalde-Padron rested her case. Details of the emergency were not immediately available, but Baker was back in the courtroom by mid-afternoon. Jurors were not told why there was a delay.

In graphic terms Tuesday morning, the victim told jurors Baker started his inappropriate relationship with her by introducing what he called "sex education." She said he explored her body with his hands and taught her to do the same to herself and to him.

The abuse escalated to include oral sex after the girl hit puberty, she said.

Because the girl was sometimes given a prescription sleeping pill before encounters, she was unaware that Baker would occasionally take explicit photographs, she said. Prosecutors introduced 10 photographs as evidence. In at least two, Baker's reflection could be seen in a mirror. He was nude and holding a camera, according to Alcalde-Padron, who described the pictures in her opening statement Monday.

Baker had been a member of the Seminole Police Department for almost two years before the abuse was reported. Baker's mother testified on Monday that she walked in on her son groping the girl. She called

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her other son — a police officer with a different agency — who talked to the girl, then called Sunrise police, resulting in his brother's arrest.

Defense lawyer Dennis McHugh on Tuesday fired a host of questions at the reported victim, asking why she appeared to add accusations against Baker, resulting in additional charges filed as recently as January 2012.

The woman did not back down.

"I was only able to admit it in 2012, after counseling... [to] get over the embarrassment and shame and all the things that come with it," she said.

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