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Former Minneapolis cop accused of soliciting underage girls appears in court

By Sarah Horner

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A former Minneapolis police officer accused of soliciting girls online still is prohibited from seeing his young daughters.

With his wife seated behind him in the gallery of Anoka County District Court, Bradley James Schnickel's newly appointed attorney, Fred Bruno, argued the Andover father should be allowed supervised visits with the couple's children, ages 2 and 7 months.

An employee at the sex offender treatment program, Alpha Human Services, cleared Schnickel, 32, to see them after he recently completed a psychosexual evaluation, Bruno said.

"This is not asking a lot," Bruno said.

The conditions of Schnickel's release prevent him from being in contact with any minors, including his children.

The former police officer faces six felonies, including two counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, one count of attempted third-degree criminal sexual conduct and three counts of engaging in electronic communication relating to or describing conduct with a child.

Some 9,000 pages of documents subpoenaed by investigators reportedly document Schnickel's attempts to form online relationships with girls via Facebook and other social networking sites.

He met at least two girls in person, and is accused of having sex with one 13-year-old in a car after he gave her Mountain Dew mixed with vodka.



Bradley James Schnickel, 32, of Andover, was arrested on suspicion of first-degree criminal sexual conduct. He is suspected of contacting multiple girls in Anoka County via social media sites and then sexually assaulting them. The alleged victims range in age from 12-17. Photo courtesy of the Anoka County Sheriff's Office.

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Minneapolis police announced he was no longer employed with the force shortly after he was charged.

Assistant Anoka County Attorney Paul Young said

▶ Bruno's request was premature and the risk to the public too great to allow Schnickel access to his daughters without additional information.

Anoka County District Judge James Cunningham denied Bruno's request but said he would reconsider it at a later date should Schnickel wish to make it again.

Schnickel appeared in court for a Rule 8 hearing, which was continued until May.

Bruno suggested during the proceeding that the case was headed toward settlement. He didn't

respond to requests for comment following the hearing.

Young said he had no comment.

Sarah Horner can be reached at 651-228-5539.

Follow her at twitter.com/hornsarah.



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