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# South Lake Tahoe officer accused of witness tampering was in court

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SACRAMENTO, CA - A South Lake Tahoe police officer who was arrested Wednesday was in court Thursday.

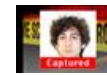
John Poland, 44, was arrested on five counts of witness tampering at the police department by FBI agents. According to court documents, Poland was in a love triangle with a gang member's girlfriend and helped drug traffickers evade police and throw investigators off their path. The documents reveal he coached the woman and another witness on what to say to police and what evidence to destroy.

**RELATED STORY: South Lake Tahoe Police officer accused of witness tampering arrested**

Court documents also accuse Poland of using his position as a school resource officer to have sex with underage girls.

In court, a U.S. Attorney used those

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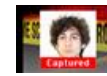
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Johnny Poland (Photo Courtesy of LakeTahoeNews.net)

allegations to emphasize that Poland is a danger to young women, but the judge pointed out Poland has not been charged with those crimes.

The judge agreed to release Poland on bond, but warned him not to have any contact with potential witnesses named in the criminal complaint.

Poland is scheduled to be back in court Feb. 14 for preliminary hearing.

News10/KXTV

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