

## Write? Wrong!: Judge says OK for accused perv to contact 13-year-old, angers mom

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*Richard Harbus for New York Daily News* Modesto Alamo, a former NYPD officer, was arrested in May for sexual abuse, forcible touching and endangering the welfare of a minor — a 13-year-old girl. He's out on \$1,500 bail. Richard Harbus for New York Daily News Bronx strip club Crazy Horse Cabaret, where ex-NYPD officer Modesto Alamo was stabbed in 2011 when he threatened to get his gun during a fight. Richard Harbus for New York Daily News Police officer stands guard near the home of a girl who was allegedly groped and sexed by former NYPD cop Modesto Alamo. The 13-year-old reportedly went to school with his son.

Judge Shari R. Michels says it's OK for a former NYPD cop to contact a 13-year-old with whom, authorities say, he had a sexual relationship.

A Bronx judge told a pervy former NYPD cop he could write a letter to the 13-year-old girl he allegedly sexted and groped — a bizarre offer that has enraged the girl's family.

Judge Shari Michels extended the invitation to former officer Modesto Alamo after his May 24 arrest for sexual abuse, forcible touching and endangering the welfare of a minor, records show.

At a hearing this past July, Michels did order Alamo, 37, to stay away from the girl, but then added, "If you feel that there is a need for communication, write it down, put

it in the envelope, and put a date on it, and in the future, if you want to give them that information, you can do that then," a court transcript shows.

The victim's mother remains livid.

"I could not believe a woman judge would make such a statement when my daughter is just 13 years old," said the mom, whose name is being withheld to protect her daughter's identity.

She said the accused predator cop should never have any contact with her daughter again.

"Certainly in hindsight, the judge regrets causing the alleged victim and her family any further anguish or pain," said a spokesman for the judge, David Bookstaver. "Her remarks were certainly not intended to do that."



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He wouldn't elaborate on what her intention was. Neither Alamo, who is out on \$1,500 bail, nor his lawyer would comment.

Defense lawyer Ron Kuby, who's not involved in the case, said he believed the judge was "trying to act in a counseling capacity, as judges sometimes do."

"It's not unusual for judges to dispense sage — or not so sage — advice," Kuby said.

Meanwhile, the NYPD is concerned its mentally troubled former employee might still pose a danger to the teen — cops have kept a patrol car parked outside the family's apartment since June.

Michels, the daughter of former City Councilman Stanley Michels, has run into controversy before. She's the judge who put an arrest warrant for Lamont Pride on hold in November 2011 when he was a no-show for a drug case. Weeks later, Pride killed cop Peter Figoski during a robbery in Brooklyn.

Alamo, who has been on the force since 2004, was no Figoski.

He was placed on modified duty assigned at the NYPD auto shop for an alleged assault. Then, in January 2011, he ended up getting stabbed at a Bronx strip club after threatening to go get his gun during a fracas.



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He was still on modified duty last year when he struck up his relationship with the girl — who was a Catholic schoolmate of his son's. The mom said Alamo ingratiated himself to her daughter by complimenting a picture she'd posted on Instagram.

"That's how they started talking," the mom said. He soon convinced her they should meet up, and they began going out together while the mom was at work. The 6-foot-1 Alamo introduced the girl to friends as his "niece."

"He was buying her stuff, giving her money," the mom said.

They also started sexting — with Alamo sending her pictures of his privates and the girl sending

him pictures as well, her mother said.

Her daughter started changing the way she dressed, and her grades started slipping, the mom said.

The relationship became physical, and he would kiss and grope her, the mom and the criminal complaint say.

“He did things he should have been doing with an adult woman, not a child,” the mom said.



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She found out about the relationship after the girl came clean to a school counselor, leading to the criminal charges.

Alamo was arrested in May and quit the force. The arrest was not publicly disclosed by the police department.

Alamo missed one court appearance in June, and threatened to kill himself, court records show.

When he showed up in court July 2, Michels told him she was “glad” he “was still with us.”

She later ordered him to undergo a psychiatric evaluation and to get treatment while the case is pending. Michels also denied his bid to get the charges against him tossed.

When he was late showing up for a court appearance before a different judge Friday, an officer went up to the victim’s apartment to make sure she was okay.

“They were worried he might do something,” the mom said.

*With Rocco Parascandola*