

S.F. Officer Richard Hastings III accused of molestation

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A San Francisco police officer appeared in court Wednesday on charges of molesting a 15-year-old boy.

Richard Hastings III, 38, was charged with nine counts of lewd acts upon a child and one count of possession of child pornography, Contra Costa County prosecutors said.

Hastings was arrested in August by Concord police, but prosecutors sent the case back to detectives for more investigation.

Harry Stern, who represented Hastings in August, said the relationship was consensual and that the officer "was specifically told and reasonably believed that the other person was of age."

Hastings has been a San Francisco officer since 2001. He was suspended without pay on the day of his arrest and remains suspended, said Officer Albie Esparza, a police spokesman.

Hastings is scheduled to be arraigned Friday morning. He is being held on \$910,000 bail.

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