

Richmond police officer charged with rape, sodomy of juvenile now faces federal charge

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[2016 Cop Pedophile](#) Charles E. Church

BY ALI ROCKETT AND FRANK GREEN Richmond Times-Dispatch | 5 hours ago

A Richmond police officer who was facing a rape charge and two counts of sodomy of a juvenile in local court was named in a federal complaint filed Monday.

Court records show Charles E. Church, 40, was charged in federal court in a complaint alleging that from last Oct. 11 to Nov. 4, in Richmond, he received child pornography.

The complaint was made by a Richmond detective assigned to an FBI task force. However, the detective's affidavit outlining probable cause that a crime had been committed – normally a public document - was sealed and unavailable for inspection.

The affidavit was ordered sealed by U.S. Magistrate Judge Roderick C. Young on a motion from the U.S. Attorney's office "to protect the personal safety and privacy of the victim in this case, as well as the rights of the defendant."

The maximum punishment for the federal charge against Church is 20 years in prison.

Last November, Church was arrested by the Richmond police department after it investigated an allegation that he had sexually assaulted a juvenile.

In Richmond Circuit Court, he faced two charges of sodomy and one charge of raping of a child under the age of 13. He was in court Tuesday where those charged were dropped "to make way for federal prosecutors," according to Church's attorney Jim McLemore.

Church, of the 1400 block of West Marshall Street, was assigned to the city's 3rd Precinct and is now on unpaid administrative leave. He is a 12-year veteran of the Richmond Police Department.

Police were told about the alleged assault the evening after it occurred and conducted a brief investigation before arresting Church.

Both the alleged assault and Church's arrest took place while he was off duty, according to police.

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