

Former Texas sheriff's deputy accused of cyberstalking teen in Worcester County faces new sexual exploitation of a minor charges

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The former Texas sheriff's deputy who was charged with cyberstalking a Worcester County teen is now facing charges of sexual exploitation of a minor.

The U.S. Attorney's office announced the new charge, which carries a mandatory 15-year prison sentence if convicted, on Friday.

Authorities say that Pasquale T. Salas, 25, met the alleged victim in 2014 when she was 12-years-old while playing the online video game Minecraft.

Salas and the young girls communicated on a private chat room, which evolved into text messaging, Skype and Snapchat, the [U.S. Attorney's office said](#).

During their conversations, authorities said, Salas repeatedly coerced the girl to send explicit photos and videos of herself.

Authorities said that the girl sent Salas hundreds of sexually explicit videos and images of herself at his request. He also allegedly sent sexually explicit images of himself to her as they communicated on Minecraft.

In 2016, authorities said, Salas repeatedly threatened to send the explicit

images and videos of the girl to her friends and family if she didn't continue communicating with him.

Authorities said Salas used web-based applications to disguise the source of the communications and told the girl he had "people watching her and surveilling her home."

Salas sent the girl jewelry, Edible Arrangements, iTunes gift cards and gave her access to his Amazon Prime account, court records said.

When he was arrested on Wednesday, authorities said he was in possession of a smartphone that contained at least one video of a minor performing sex acts that Salas had coerced her to perform.

The girl met with investigators on June 3, when she was 17.

A detention hearing is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 5, 2019, in federal court in Houston, Texas. He will appear in federal court in Worcester at a later date.

The Matagorda County Sheriff's Office confirmed Salas is no longer employed at the facility.

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