

# Former dispatcher arrested on charges of allegedly sexually assaulting a minor

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FRESNO, Calif. - A former Madera police dispatcher is facing sexual assault and child porn charges. Fresno police said Martin Ramos, 43, met the 17-year-old alleged victim at church and became her mentor.

Fresno police said Ramos admitted to sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl on the way home from a church event. Police said it happened days before an anonymous tipster reported it to the department on September 20th. Ramos was arrested the next day at a relative's home.

"The position the suspect was in, as far as being a mentor, trying to help this teenager violated the trust," said Fresno Police Detective Dan Macias.

Police said the two met a few years ago at church. Detectives said Ramos was an elder at Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall on West McKinley Avenue. Ramos and the minor exchanged about 30 pictures including some nude photographs, according to a superior court search warrant. The warrant also stated Ramos told investigators he restored his cell phone to get rid of all pictures and evidence.

"Being a dispatcher, you might be dispatching police officers out to these types of calls," said Detective Macias. "Being in the profession, you should know better."

Madera police said Ramos resigned the same day he was arrested.

The Madera Police Department issued this statement: "We were shocked and troubled by the arrest of Mr. Ramos. Immediately following his arrest, Mr. Ramos resigned from his position as a Dispatcher and is no longer an employee of the Madera Police Department." -- Lieutenant Brian Esteves.

Ramos is facing the following charges according to the complaint: oral copulation of a person under 18, possession of child pornography, showing pornography to a minor, and child molestation.

If convicted, police said Ramos will have to register as a sex offender.

The church released this statement to Eyewitness News.

"We are writing in regard to your recent news article relating to the arrest of Mr. Martin Ramos where you state that Mr. Ramos is an elder with our congregation. This is to inform you that Mr. Ramos is no longer one of Jehovah's Witnesses. Since we are aware that this incident is being investigated by local authorities we are not in a position to provide any further information." - Derrick Patterson & Stanley Williams, Bobby Forest, Elders at the Palm West Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses