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Updated: Thursday, 04 Nov 2010, 6:25 PM MDT  
Published: Thursday, 04 Nov 2010, 1:27 PM MDT

Adapted for the Web by myFOXPhoenix.com Staff

PHOENIX - Thirty years after a valley man was sexually molested at age 14, a church elder in Phoenix has been arrested in connection to the crime.

63-year-old David Nelson was arrested at his home Wednesday night. He's charged with two counts of sexual conduct with a minor, two counts of molestation of a child and two counts of public sexual indecency.

Some 30 years ago, Nelson met the victim through the Madison Park Congregation Church near 16th Street and Earll Drive and became a friend of the family.

Nelson was a Jehovah's Witness elder, a preacher and leader of the congregation, since 1979.

The victim told police the incidents happened at Nelson's home in September and November 1980. According to court documents, the victim and Nelson, then 33, were engaged in a game of strip poker which escalated.

After undressing, the game progressed from touching to numerous oral sex acts by both parties, documents allege.

The victim decided to come forward after talking to his wife and telling her what he went through.

In a recent recorded phone call, Nelson admitted to the sexual conduct with the victim and even apologized. He stated that it was all his fault and the victim was totally innocent.

A woman who says she's known him for 30 years was stunned, saying he is a well-liked and very helpful neighbor. She wanted to remain anonymous.

"Very, very much shocking news..I'm shocked..I don't know what to say..I hope he's okay..he's just an angel..I can not say anything better because he's been here for us all the time," she said.

We tried knocking on the door to Nelson's home, which he shares with his wife. There was someone inside, but they did not want to comment.

Phoenix police are unaware of any other victims at this time, but would encourage any individuals who were possibly victimized to report the crime.

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