

St. Paul

'Teen' solicited online was investigator

Albertville man charged in sex case

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Donald James Tisdale, 58, allegedly posted an ad on Craigslist.

The Craigslist ad was titled, "Who's playing hooky from school today???"

"If you are home from school today, young, open sexual are interested in more drop me a line and lets see how I can make your day. I am a middle-aged man, so you need to be okay with that," the ad continued.

On Monday, someone replied to the ad claiming to be a 14-year-old girl, and a meeting between the man and the teen was set up in St. Paul, according to a criminal complaint filed Tuesday in Ramsey County District Court.

The 14-year-old girl was in reality an investigator with the St. Paul Police Department and the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, according to the complaint.

They arrested the man who showed up for the rendezvous at a parking lot on the city's East Side and charged Donald James Tisdale of Albertville with two counts of electronic solicitation of a child, the complaint said.

According to the complaint:

The investigation started when the police officer went into the "casual encounters" section of Craigslist on Monday and found the online ad.

The officer responded to the ad and attached an age-regressed picture of a female employee at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

The person who placed the ad asked, "Are you OK with older men?"

The investigator responded, "yes only been with 1 older guy..im 14 how old are u."

"I'm 54, is that to old for you?" the ad placer responded. Tisdale is in fact 58, according to the complaint.

According to the complaint, the online conversation continued with the advertiser asking: "How old was the older guy you were with? How far did you go with him?"

The complaint said the response was "like 40 or something, we did a lot."

The advertiser sent pictures of a middle-aged man, including one with his pants around his ankles and requesting "a xxx pic of you," the complaint said.

The ad placer asked the girl for her address and if she was home alone.

The police officer suggested meeting in a parking lot near Maryland and White Bear avenues. The advertiser said he worked in St. Paul by Minnesota 280 and would leave in 15 minutes.

The police allegedly saw Tisdale arrive in a car for the rendezvous, and he matched the image of the advertiser's photos.

He was arrested at 11:40 a.m. Monday, according to a police report.

Before asking for a lawyer, the complaint said, Tisdale told police he worked for a medical device company near Minnesota 280 and Interstate 35W.

Tisdale could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

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