



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

PRESS RELEASE

Case #14-519006

Youth Worker Arrested for Sex Abuse, More Victims Sought

December 8, 2014--Washington County Sheriff's Child Abuse Detectives are searching for possible sex abuse victims following the arrest of a Vancouver man. There are currently three victims identified. Detectives fear there may be additional victims due to the man's extensive contact with children.

On December 6, 2014, Sheriff's Deputies responded to a residence in the community of Bonny Slope to investigate a complaint that Christopher Joseph Gonzales, 44, from Vancouver, had inappropriate sexual contact with young girls. Sheriff's Deputies investigated the complaint and the Sheriff's Office Child Abuse Detectives were contacted to assist with the case.



Preliminary information indicated that Mr. Gonzales had visited the family member's Bonny Slope residence many times. The reported abuse occurred at the residence beginning in 2008 and continued over the course of several years. The reported abuse has been confirmed with three different girls as young as five years old.

Sheriff's Deputies learned that Mr. Gonzales had been a youth volunteer at two Vancouver, Washington churches for several years. He volunteered at the Crossroads Community Church from 2010-2014 and the Freedom Community Church from early 2014 until present. Christopher Gonzales also volunteered at the Vancouver based Called to Rescue USA, a child abuse prevention organization, periodically from 2012 until present.

Mr. Gonzales was arrested on December 7, 2014, and lodged in the Washington County Jail. He was charged with nine counts of First Degree Sexual Abuse. He is held on \$750,000 bail.

Child Abuse Detectives have processed evidence and interviewed a number of people who had knowledge of the incidents. Detectives fear there may be additional victims that Mr. Gonzales may have abused due to his volunteer work placing him in close proximity to children.

Detectives are seeking the public's help regarding this case or possible additional unreported crimes committed by Mr. Gonzales. If you have any information, please call the Washington County Sheriff's Office at (503) 846-2500.