

## Lexington area resident charged with 13 counts of felony child molesting

Written by Marty Randall

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A Lexington area resident has been released on bond after being charged with 13 counts of child molesting, alleged to have occurred over a five-year period.

Jesse A. Kiefer, 37, South Charlestown Road, is the defendant in the case. He reportedly performed or or submitted to "...deviate sexual conduct with a child under 14 years of age...", according to court documents.

In the probable cause affidavit, Detective Rachel Eickholz with the Sellersburg post of the Indiana State Police, explained that she reviewed reports of the Indiana Department of Child Services and interviewed two girls, now 15 and 17, and Kiefer.

In her interviews, she said she learned that Kiefer allegedly became sexually active with the girls when they were seven or eight years old. The incidents stopped when the girls entered middle school.

Det. Eickholtz stated that Kiefer at first denied molesting or inappropriately touching the girls. He purportedly then admitted his interaction with the children.

Four of the felony counts are Class A offenses; the remainder are Class C felonies. The charges were filed by the Prosecutor's Office on February 6, and bail was set at \$100,000 corporate surety bond or \$20,000 cash. The man filed his cash bond on February 7 and then attended the initial hearing on Monday, February 10, conducted by Judge Roger Duvall in Scott Circuit Court.

Kiefer, appearing with a hired attorney, waived his reading of rights, penalties and charges and entered a not guilty plea. Judge Duvall then set a jury trial of July 28 for the case.

A no-contact order to protect the girls and their family was also entered that Monday.