



SFGate

Monday Jan 20, 2014 10:42 PM PT

53° F San Francisco, CA (change)
 Clear Today 48/72 Wed. 48/68
 5 Day Forecast Traffic

sfgate.com Businesses Sign In | Register

- Home News Sports Business Entertainment Food Living Travel Columns Cars Jobs Real Estate Find&Save Index

Bay Area & State | Nation | World | Politics | Crime | Tech | Obituaries | Opinion | Green | Science | Health | Education | Weird

Rabbi Arrested in Molest Case / 12-year-old says Petaluma man fondled her

Erik Ingram, Chronicle North Bay Bureau
 Published 4:00 am, Wednesday, December 18, 1996

Tweet 0
 Share
 Larger | Smaller | Email This
 Printable Version | Font

A Petaluma rabbi has been arrested on suspicion of molesting a 12-year-old schoolgirl and could face up to eight years in state prison if convicted.

Rabbi **Sidney Isaac Goldenberg**, 58, of Congregation B'nai Israel was arrested Monday at his Tulare Street home on a

\$100,000 arrest warrant charging him with one felony count of lewd conduct with a minor and two misdemeanor counts of annoying a child.

According to Sonoma County District Attorney **Michael Mullins**, the case was reported to authorities Thursday after the girl told a classmate, who convinced her to talk to a school counselor. The counselor contacted police.

Mullins said the incidents took place between September and December while the girl was receiving religious instruction. He declined to discuss details of the case but said he felt confident that there is sufficient evidence for a conviction.

Goldenberg recently moved from New York to Petaluma to serve at the local synagogue.

The arrest warrant claims that Goldenberg took the girl out of a class where she was preparing for her bat mitzvah and took her to his office, where he made lewd remarks, touched the girl's breasts and asked her to put her hands into his pants pockets.

"This is an A student, (and) suddenly her behavior changed," said Deputy District Attorney **Gary Medvigy**, who is prosecuting the case. "It has clearly affected the girl."

Petaluma police Sergeant **Mike Kerns** said detectives are investigating **Goldenberg's** background to determine if there are other victims.

Representatives for Congregation B'nai Israel could not be reached for comment.

Goldenberg was released from jail yesterday after posting \$100,000 bail. He is scheduled to appear for arraignment on December 30 in Sonoma County Municipal Court.

A person convicted of lewd conduct with a child can be sentenced to state prison for three, six or eight years. Upon release, California law requires the individual to register as a sex offender with local authorities.

Printable Version | Email This | Share 0 | Tweet

You Might Also Like



Photo Galleries Displaying 1-3 of 40

- Photos of the Day
- Annie Leibovitz at Stanford
- Day in Pictures, Jan. 20, 2014

You Might Also Like

- 15 best financial sites and apps**
CNN Money
- 7 TV Character Kill-Offs That Shocked Us**
Wall St. Cheat Sheet
- 25 Celebrities You Didn't Know Were Black!**
Styleblazer
- Pippa's Little Black Dress Upstages Kate**
StyleBistro - Look Books

Most Read

- Vernon Davis offers pointed response to Richard Sherman
- Surprising facts about sex
- 49ers safety Donte Whitner has words for the refs, Seattle fans and Richard Sherman
- Seahawks fans throw food at injured 49ers star NaVorro Bowman
- San Francisco's new blacklist



3 things you can ask your landlord to change before you sign a lease
Moveline



3 Mistakes to Avoid When Financing a Car Purchase
Net Credit



The top 3 obstacles to working productively from home
Reus



CDC: Chikungunya Virus Now in the Western Hemisphere
HCPLive

- 6. California mom gives birth to 15-pound baby, biggest ever in the state
- 7. Cops: Taunted 49ers fan shoots 2 in Fresno



From Around the Web

- **Man Of Who? 15 Of The Most Suspect Preachers Around** (MadameNoire)
- **10 Great Small Cities for Retirement** (AARP)
- **7 Signs of an Unhealthy Heart** (Caring.com)
- **Confessions of Hotel Housekeepers** (AARP.org)
- **The Wine Club You'll Want To Join** (The Huffington Post)
- **Homeowners Are In For A Big Surprise...** (Lifestyle Journal)

We Recommend

- **Intimidation is real with 49ers, Seahawks** (SFGate Sports)
- **Madonna apologizes for racial slur** (SFGate News)
- **TSA opens offices to speed security screening** (SFGate News)
- **Navy: Divers recover body of missing pilot** (SFGate News)
- **Calif. city could cease to exist over budget woes** (SFGate News)
- **GM: Refinement will lure buyers to new small truck** (SFGate Business)

Recommended by

Empty rectangular box for user input or comments.

Nov. 18: Update on user avatars

(0) Comments

powered by: **viafoura**



[Record video](#) [Upload video](#) [Upload image](#)

Submit

Follow

Newest

Inside SFGate

Displaying 1-4 of 14



Kia Cadenza enters the near-luxury field



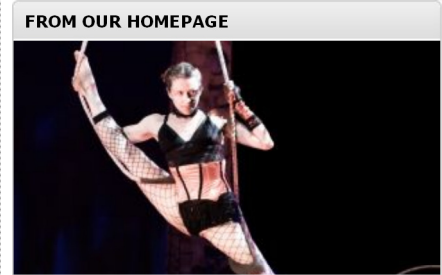
FOGFair @ Ft. Mason: Wo needs football?



Armistead Maupin's new life in Santa Fe



Obama memoir could land \$17-\$20 mil



FROM OUR HOMEPAGE

A scintillating Edwardian Ball

Retro is never sexier than at S.F.'s ballroom/burlesque/steampunk extravaganza. [Photos](#)



Epic local rock landmarks

Notable Bay Area spots include the grave site of this early member of the Grateful Dead.



Surprising facts about sex

For example, having sex at the office isn't that rare and kinkiness may be good for you.

