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Nation: Colorado child molester accused of assaulting girl in Bible-study class

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The Associated Press

DENVER (October 30, 2001 10:06 a.m. EST) - A convicted child molester whose appeal of his sentence led to shorter terms for more than 1,500 sex offenders is accused of molesting a 14-year-old student from his Bible-study class.

Fort Lupton police issued a warrant Monday for Vance Martin, 35, on charges he sexually assaulted the girl. He had not been arrested Tuesday.

Martin also is charged under a new state law that makes failure to register as a sex offender a felony and requires offenders to register their address four times a year.

Martin's appeal of his parole term led to a July Colorado Supreme Court ruling that required the release of about 1,500 sex offenders who committed crimes between July 1993 and July 1998. The court threw out a 1993 mandatory parole law because it conflicted with an older law that limited how long sex offenders could be placed on parole.

Martin was originally arrested in July 1993 for molesting his girlfriend's 10-year-old daughter and the girl's young friend in Denver. He pleaded guilty to sexual assault of a child.

After two probation violations, he was re-sentenced in 1997 to four years in prison and five years of mandatory parole based on the 1993 law.

Martin had been teaching a youth Bible-study course at the Living Waters Assembly of God Church in Fort Lupton, Detective John Atkins said. Martin allegedly assaulted the 14-year-old after inviting her to watch videos at his house in September.

Church representatives could not be reached for comment Monday.

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