

Therapist charged with sexual assault

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August 31, 2009

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A 26-year-old Libertyville therapist has been charged with having sexual relations with a 14-year-old boy staying at Kids Hope United in Lake Villa.

Cori Lynn Rivelli of the 800 block of Milwaukee Ave., will have a bond review hearing today. She was arrested on Thursday by Libertyville police and her bond was set at \$200,000.

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Cori Lynn Rivelli

Rivelli allegedly began having relations with the boy in June which was discovered when a staff member at the Kids Hope United facility overheard the victim telling another male client that he had been having sex with Rivelli.

Assistant State's Attorney Mary Stanton said the victim was interviewed at the Lake County Children's Advocacy Center where he admitted to having sexual relations.

Stanton said the investigation is continuing and Rivelli has only been charged with one count of criminal sexual assault.

"There was more than one sexual encounter," said Stanton. Police are investigating allegations there were encounters at the school and on a trip to Peoria to see the boy's family. Rivelli also allegedly told another staff member of the relationship and that person informed police.

Mark Hughes, executive director of Kids Hope United, said in a prepared statement that "staff at Kids Hope United recently learned of alleged inappropriate behavior involving an employee that is in clear violation of the policies of our organization. We took immediate action reporting the incident to the Department of Children and Family Services and the police."

Rivelli was placed on administrative leave.

"Kids Hope United continues to work with the appropriate authorities to ensure a complete and thorough investigation. The safety of the children and youth entrusted to our care is our top priority," said Hughes.

Kids Hope United offers prevention services, counseling, child development, youth services, family preservation and placement services for youth. It is a federation of agencies that spans four states and serves 15,000 children and families each year.