

Priest gets 2 years in cybersex case

Sting results in charges against two other men

By Ben Chamy
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OAKLAND — A Catholic priest who contacted a 14-year-old boy in an online chat room and later sexually molested the teenager has been sentenced to two years in state prison.

The Rev. William Green, 40, had reached a plea agreement with Contra Costa County prosecutors earlier this year.

Green had been working in a hospice in Oakland at the time of his arrest. He last had served as a Catholic priest in the early 1990s in Kentucky.

The charges against Green resulted from an undercover operation started by the Walnut Creek Police Department in 1998. There have been seven arrests.

The investigation of Green began with a 14-year-old boy being solicited for sex online.

The boy complained to police, who then used the boy's computer and screen name to continue the online chats, according to court records.

Green was arrested on suspicion of molesting the boy after several messages sent by Green to the undercover officer inferred the two had already had contact. The boy admitted as much during a subsequent interview.

Jeffrey Meek, an Oakland man who was convicted of child molestation as a juvenile, also was arrested in an undercover sting operation. He allegedly had dozens of conversations with the officer, in which he spelled out his fantasies.

Detectives were able to find Meek by tracing his screen name through America Online records.

He was taken into custody on his way to

what he thought would be a rendezvous with the boy.

Meek was in federal court Friday before U.S. Magistrate Wayne Brazil to face three charges that could jail him for 15 years each.

In court, prosecutors disclosed that as a teen-ager Meek was diagnosed as being a fixated sexual abuser of children.

Craig Dodge, a Hayward resident, was also charged in the case. He was arraigned Friday in U.S. District Court. Aside from charges in federal court, Dodge also is facing charges in Santa Clara County Superior Court.

In a bizarre coincidence, he also had been conducting an online seductive chat with an undercover San Jose police officer while chatting with the Walnut Creek undercover officer, police said.

Charges against him in the San Jose case have been put on hold until the federal case is adjudicated, prosecutors said.