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Police on lookout for other assault victims of lawyer

Police are looking for other possible victims of a criminal defense lawyer who allegedly was caught naked with a 14-year-old girl in a courthouse conference room. The lawyer, Larry Charles, 49, of East Oak Lane, was released yesterday after posting \$50,000 bail. He also was ordered to stay away from the girl and her family, with whom he reportedly was close. Lt. Dan Bagnell of the Special Victims Unit said the investigation was continuing but would not elaborate except to say police were looking for other possible victims.

Richard Gelles, dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice and an expert in child welfare issues, said police should be expected to seek other possible victims in such a case. If the allegation is true, "this is probably not the first time -- but it could be," he said. Gelles said the location where Charles allegedly was caught with the girl on Monday -- a third floor conference room at the Criminal Justice Center -- also raised some questions. That circumstance could indicate either high-risk behavior or a desire to get caught.

Charles' law office referred calls to his attorney, Angelo Cameron, who did not respond to a request for comment. A sheriff's deputy found Charles and the girl about 3:45 p.m. Monday at the Criminal Justice Center in a third-floor conference room used by lawyers, police said. The pair earlier had been seen boarding an elevator at the building on 13th and Filbert Streets. Courts were closed Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, but the building was open for arraignments and emergency orders.

Charles, who once represented the late rap star Ol' Dirty Bastard, was charged with aggravated and simple sexual assault, endangering the welfare of a child, corruption of a minor, unlawful contact with a minor, unlawful restraint and false imprisonment.

He was also charged with burglary and criminal trespass.

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