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West Rockhill

Man not guilty of molesting 5-year-old

Jurors heard a wiretapped conversation between the defendant and the child's mother in which he denied touching the girl sexually.

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A Bucks County jury in Doylestown has acquitted a West Rockhill man of charges that he sexually assaulted a 5-year-old girl last year.

██████████ was found not guilty of involuntary deviate sexual intercourse of a child, aggravated indecent assault, endangering the welfare of children, corruption of minors and related offenses.

The jurors deliberated for two hours before reaching their decision late Friday night. ██████████'s attorney, Andrew Schneider, said his client was relieved.

"There were a lot of problems with this case from the beginning," he said. "Obviously, ██████████ is happy about the verdict."

The charges came to light last March after the child told an adult that ██████████ who was caring for her while her mother was at work, touched her inappropriately. The girl's mother brought her to St. Luke's Hospital-Quakertown for an examination and a police investigation was launched.

██████████ denied the charges.

During the three-day trial, prosecutors played a wiretapped conversation between ██████████ and the child's mother.

On the tape, ██████████ admitted pulling down the child's underwear and looking at her private areas but said he only did so after the child complained of soreness. He denied touching her sexually.

"I never touched that kid," he said.

Schneider credited the wiretap with helping clear his client's name.

"I think that it was a strong piece of evidence in our favor," he said.

Prosecutors said that a man who was in Bucks County Prison with ██████████ while he was awaiting trial told them that ██████████ confessed to the crime.

Deputy District Attorney Abigail Fillman, who prosecuted the case, was not available for comment Monday.

██████████ spent seven months behind bars before the trial because he could not afford to post bail. Schneider said ██████████ family stood behind him throughout the case and was elated by the verdict.

"They were bawling," he said.

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