

## Passaic man guilty of child endangerment

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BY JOHN PETRICK

STAFF WRITER | THE RECORD

A 48-year-old Passaic man pleaded guilty in state court Monday to child endangerment after authorities say he exposed two young boys to pornography and liquor.

Mitchell Levinton of Lafayette Street faces five years in state prison when sentenced by state Superior Court Judge Joseph A. Falcone in Paterson on Jan. 21. Authorities say the victims, both 14 at the time of the 2006 incident, were helpers at a catering company where Levinton worked. The boys engaged in masturbatory acts in Levinton's presence, according to officials. Levinton ultimately and unsuccessfully tried to get the boys to perform oral sex on him by offering them money, authorities said.

Levinton is being held at the Passaic County Jail. His bail has been revoked pending sentencing, as he was already facing other charges when arrested.

Last December, Levinton pleaded guilty before Falcone to a charge of lewdness and was awaiting sentencing. Prosecutors had recommended parole supervision for life with the caveat that if he violated that sentence, he'd get an automatic year and a half in state prison.

That plea stemmed from his arrest in May 2008 on charges of criminal sexual contact with a 17-year-old developmentally disabled boy in Passaic. Levinton had been doing electrical contract work for the victim's family and befriended the boy, according to authorities, and ultimately exposed himself in front of the victim after inviting him to his Passaic home to watch a movie.

In 2001, Levinton was sentenced to 364 days in jail and was placed on lifetime probation after being convicted of criminal sexual contact in Atlantic City. In that case, the victim was an adult.

E-mail: [petrick@northjersey.com](mailto:petrick@northjersey.com)

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