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Judge detains UI student facing sex charge

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URBANA – A University of Illinois student accused of traveling to Iowa to have sex with a young girl proclaimed his innocence at a federal court hearing Monday in Urbana.

Jonathan Shub, 23, a senior in Liberal Arts and Sciences, faces a federal charge in the Northern District of Iowa for interstate travel to have sex with a person under 16.

Shub, originally from Buffalo Grove and currently listing an address in the 400 block of East Chalmers Street, Champaign, was arrested Friday in Champaign, according to Sean Berry, an assistant U.S. attorney in Iowa who is prosecuting the case.

Through his appointed Assistant Federal Public Defender Tiffani Johnson, Shub asked for a detention hearing in Iowa, where the charges were filed, rather than in Illinois. Magistrate Judge David Bernthal then ordered that Shub be detained pending that hearing.

Shub then asked Bernthal why he should be held in jail.

"I could never harm myself or anyone," Shub said. "There is no reason for my detention in jail."

Shub, with his parents and a rabbi in court to support him, said people who know him can vouch for him as a nonviolent man.

"I haven't done anything," Shub said. "You are keeping an innocent person in jail when they don't deserve it. Isn't that against everything this country stands for?"

An affidavit in the case states that Shub confessed to federal investigators on Dec. 10 that he met a girl through an Internet chat room. She initially told him that she was almost 18 years old, then later told him that she was 12 years old, almost 13, the affidavit said.

Shub admitted that he traveled to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and had sex with the girl in December 2003 and January 2004. He knew at that time that she was less than 16 years old. He was 21 years old, according to the court records.

Federal investigators interviewed the girl in Cedar Rapids on Sept. 3, 2004. She admitted having sex with at least two adult

males she met online, including Shub, according to the federal affidavit.

She told them that they twice had sex in Shub's car at a local park, and a third time at a hotel in Cedar Rapids, the affidavit states.

The girl also told investigators that the last time she met with Shub was on her 13th birthday, Feb. 5, 2004. They stayed at a motel and had sex that night, according to the affidavit.

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