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Family fights bond for counselor Boy, 5, said he was sexually battered

By Vivian Wakefield

The family of a young boy who said he was sexually battered by a counselor with the Florida Department of Children and Families is trying to get the man's bond revoked.

Louis Templeman, 51, of Jacksonville was arrested Christmas Day after the 5-year-old said a man touched his genitals on Dec. 24. The boy was spending the night at the home of Templeman, whose daughter was baby-sitting him, police said.

Duval County Judge Gary Flower set bond at \$ 100,000, which Templeman posted. A conviction of capital sexual battery carries a mandatory life sentence.

Yesterday, on behalf of the boy's family, Assistant State Attorney Jason Lazarus asked Circuit Judge Henry Davis to revoke Templeman's bond and return him to jail. Because the defense was given only a few hours' notice of the prosecutor's motion, Davis postponed the case until tomorrow to allow for witnesses to be called to testify.

Templeman knew the boy because his teenage daughter had been the child's baby sitter for more than a year, the 5-year-old's father said. The father's name is not being published by the Times-Union because it might identify the boy.

He said yesterday following Templeman's court appearance that the boy had spent the night there before and had never reported any problems.

'I had trusted somebody in this type of field to be with my son,' the father said. 'I don't think he should ever be allowed bond with the type of work he did.'

A girl who answered Templeman's telephone and identified herself as his daughter said he did not want to comment.

The state Department of Children and Families has researched Templeman's cases and found no other problems, said Alan Kelley, agency communications director.

'That's really what we expected,' Kelley said. 'All of his records and anyone who's worked with him, they've given us indications that he was a very good employee.'

Templeman primarily worked with kids who lived with their parents or custodian and were court-ordered to undergo counseling, which he performed, Kelley said.

He has been with the agency since 1996 and remains on administrative leave with pay, Kelley said.