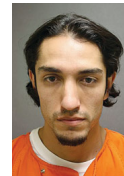


New additional charges have been made against Jorge Almeida, who was arrested on similar charges in October 2012

By ROBERT PIERCE • Leader & Times Jorge Almeida was arrested while taking photographs of the Seward County Commission during its regular scheduled meeting Monday evening. Deputies arrested Almeida on a warrant pertaining to a charge of alleged sexual exploitation of a child, and witnesses watched as he was led from the county administration building in handcuffs.



The 30-year-old had been released on bond several months ago for previous charges that he had allegedly committed unlawful acts with computers, alleged electronic solicitation, criminal sodomy, promoting obscenity to minors and attempted sexual exploitation of a child, in addition to a previous charge of indecent solicitation of a child. Monday's arrest pertained to a charge of crimes allegedly committed while Almeida was out on bond. He had been extradited back to Seward County after a November 2012 arrest in Cimarron County, Okla., relating to his October arrest.

At that time, Almeida faced an additional charge alleging aggravated intimidation of a witness, according to Seward County Attorney Don Scott, and Boise City, Okla., officials indicated he was being held on that charge.

Scott said Wednesday that Almeida was scheduled for a preliminary hearing that day in district court, but the cases have now been continued and combined until 9 a.m. on April 3. A preliminary hearing had been set on the previous charges for Jan. 16.

Scott gave no specifics as to the time Almeida could receive, but the county attorney did say if convicted, "He's looking at a lot of time."

Scott outlined the total charges Almeida now faces, including 11 level 3 charges for electronic solicitation, in the case. Almeida likewise is looking at a level 8 charge for the alleged computer crimes, level 6 for intimidation of a witness and level 5 for the charges incurred after he was arrested Monday.

Scott also said the time Almeida is facing depends on the order the cases are tried in, as they could potentially be tried consecutively.

Almeida is currently being held on a \$100,000 bond in the Seward County Jail. All of his previous bonds, including a \$40,000 cash surety bond and a \$1 million bond for his return from Cimarron County, have been revoked, according to Scott.

Almeida was originally arrested Oct. 30, 2012, in Liberal for charges alleging he had committed unlawful acts with computers.

Deputies arrest Liberal man while he was at county commission meeting Monday

Thursday, 07 March 2013 10:51

He was arrested a second time on Nov. 14, 2012, in the Oklahoma Panhandle and was charged with alleged electronic solicitation, criminal sodomy, indecent liberties with a child, sexual exploitation of a child and promoting obscenity to minors.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Almeida was photographing the commission meeting purportedly for use on the Facebook page "Liberal Gazette," which was co-founded by Almeida. The page claims, "The Liberal Gazette was formed to give residents of Liberal, KS, the News When It Happens, As It Happens ..."