

# Second man is charged with having sex with boy

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The suspect heads group here advocating tolerance for gays

Others may be named

BY HEATHER RATCLIFFE  
Of the Post-Dispatch

Rolf F Rathmann, president of a prominent group advocating tolerance for gays and lesbians,

was charged with eight felonies Thursday accusing him of sexual contact with an underage boy he met on the Internet.

Rathmann, 37, heads Pride St. Louis, which sponsors the annual Pride Festival. He was named in St. Louis County Circuit Court on eight counts of second-degree statutory sodomy.

On Wednesday, authorities charged William T. Sandefur, 50, an executive news producer for KSDK (Channel 5), with three counts of first-degree statutory sodomy involving the same victim.

Different charges apply because the victim was 13 when he

allegedly had sex with Sandefur, and 14 when he allegedly had sex with Rathmann, officials explained. Bail for each man was set at \$200,000.

Prosecutors said charges against one or more other men who met with the teen may follow.

Officials said the victim appeared to have instigated sexual liaisons with the two suspects using an Internet chat room.

"A crime was committed regardless of the conduct or intentions of the victim," said St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Robert McCulloch. "The theory is that adults are supposed to know better."

McCulloch added, "This case in unusual because we have multiple defendants and one victim. Generally, these cases have multiple victims with one suspect."

Ken Lanning, a former behavioral profiler with the FBI and national expert on crimes against children, said Thursday, "When people think about sex cases involving children, they picture a creepy predator preying on a sweet little angel. But what people don't realize is that the child very often agrees to sex or even initiates contact with the offender."

He noted, "No one keeps these statistics, but the fact



**Sandefur**  
Allegedly molested same teen



**Rathmann**  
President of Pride St. Louis

that boys are out there hustling for sex is certainly not something that is new or has never happened before."

Lanning emphasized, "It doesn't change the fact that there was a crime."

The boy's parents called police several weeks ago when they became suspicious about his behavior. He had accepted several unusual phone calls, prosecutors said.

Authorities said they had found no connection between the suspects except their relationship with the victim. The teen has cooperated with investigators.

"Obviously, this is a troubled youth," McCulloch said. "And he clearly has some conflicts."

Police said Rathmann, a flight attendant who lives in the 3800 block of Virginia Avenue, met the juvenile on several occasions at Bluebird Park in Ellisville from June to October this year.

Sandefur, of the 3300 block of Watson Road, met the boy in a bathroom of what authorities described only as a high school football stadium in west St. Louis County.

Prosecutors said they would offer support for the victim and his family and had no plans to seek any kind of charges against him

*Sounds like this came from the 1973 Mo. Law. Review*

Joey Davis

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