

Florida youth linked to AIDS hoax calls

By Ron Word
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JACKSONVILLE - The 13-year-old daughter of a hospital clerk was arrested for allegedly calling former emergency room patients and telling them that they had tested positive for the AIDS virus.

Because of the call, a teen-ager tried to get her father's gun and kill herself, a newspaper reported.

The girl was arrested Monday on charges of assault, aggravated assault and making threats after police tracked her down through one of the victim's Caller ID, police spokesman Malcolm Adams said.

She is accused of calling seven patients who were treated at University Medical Center over the weekend and telling them that they were infected with HIV.

Adams said the girl had visited her mother at work over the weekend and used a computer to print out a list of patients and phone numbers. The girl told police she made the calls as a prank, Adams said.

She was being held in a juvenile center while prosecutors "determine what charges, if any, are applicable," said Assistant State Attorney Jay Plotkin.

One patient, Amy Bulmer, became hysterical and

tried to kill herself after receiving the phony test results, but relatives kept her from getting her father's gun, she and her family told The Florida Times-Union.

Bulmer had gone to the emergency room Saturday with a bladder infection and received a Pap smear and pregnancy test. On Sunday, a young woman called the unlisted number of Bulmer's mother's, trying to reach Bulmer.

Bulmer's mother, Shirley Veazie, quoted the caller as saying: "Amy's lab work is back, and I need to let you know that she's HIV positive. And she's also pregnant. You knew that, didn't you?"

However, the family called the hospital lab and learned Bulmer was not pregnant and had not been tested for the AIDS virus.

Jan Olson, a hospital spokeswoman, said the medical center called the more than 200 patients who came through the emergency room between Friday and Sunday to make sure no one else received false information.

Olson said the girl's mother may be disciplined for the release of confidential information. "It is a dismissible offense," she said.

In a statement, the hospital said, "We deeply regret this incident and any breach of confidentiality with our patients."

**Hearing the news,
a teen-ager
reportedly tried to
kill herself.**

Girl, 13, Sentenced In an AIDS Hoax

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 20 (AP) — A teen-age girl who called former hospital patients and told them they had tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS was sentenced to five years' probation and therapy.

Tammy Lynn Eskilsen, 13, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to taking confidential information from a computer and making harassing telephone calls.

All charges will be dropped if Ms. Eskilsen successfully completes probation, said Judge A. C. Soud Jr. of Circuit Court.

The girl's mother, Darlene Eskilsen, an employee at University Medical Center, told the judge that she took her daughter to work on Feb. 26 because she could not find anyone to watch her. She said she had not wanted to leave the girl alone because of her history of drug use, truancy and shoplifting.

Getting telephone numbers of former emergency room patients from a computer, Ms. Eskilsen called seven people and told them they had tested positive for H.I.V., the virus that causes AIDS. One of her victims tried to commit suicide.

A call to one patient was traced to the Eskilsen home because the patient had Caller ID, a device that records the telephone number of incoming calls.

Judge Soud's order requires Ms. Eskilsen to go to school, not leave a residential treatment center without permission and abide by a 6 P.M. curfew when she returns home.

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