

Detroit mom charged in sex party involving teens

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By Doug Guthrie

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DETROIT – A 34-year-old mother accused of hosting a weekend **sex party** that involved her 16-year-old daughter, another girl and 19 prostitutes, was ordered held today **in** the Wayne County Jail **in** lieu of \$500,000 bond.

The woman, who is not being named to protect the identity of her daughter, was arraigned **in** the city's 36th District Court on charges of child sexually abusive activity, delivery of marijuana, and furnishing alcohol at the **party in** her home on the city's west side. The charges carry penalties of up to 20 years.

"The details of the case... are incredibly despicable," Magistrate Renee McDuffee said before entering not guilty pleas for the woman and two men also arrested by police, who raided the gathering early Sunday.

The woman's daughter was taken into protective custody. The other 16-year-old girl was released to her parents.

Officers from the Southeast Michigan Crimes Against Children Task Force had received a tip about a **sex party** involving under-age girls. Undercover officers said customers were **charged** \$15 at the door, then negotiated with prostitutes over the price of **sex** .

The teen girls both were dancing partially nude for about 20 men when police raided the home. Wayne County Sheriff Warren Evans said it was unclear whether the teens also sold **sex** .

The woman and two men appeared Monday **in** court by a video connection to the **Detroit** Police Department's Sixth Precinct where they had been held since about 4 a.m. Sunday.

Raymond Stanley Ferguson, 29, is accused of standing guard with a handgun at the front door of the **party** . He was **charged** with being a felon **in** possession of a firearm. Due to his long prior criminal record, Ferguson could face up to 17 years if convicted.

Samuel Ardell Benning, 28, is believed to have been a customer at the **party** , but police said he also was carrying the drug Ecstasy. Benning was **charged** with possession of a controlled substance and faced the possibility of up to life because he too is a four-time prior felony offender.

McDuffee ordered Ferguson and Benning held on \$500,000 bonds. The woman can be released with a \$5,000 payment.

The magistrate complained during the arraignment that state law wouldn't allow her to keep the trio **in** jail without bond.

"I don't find, according to statute, the opportunity to remand you to the Wayne County Jail," McDuffee said. "I believe all of you are quite a danger to the city of **Detroit** and the entire metropolitan area."

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