

# Man faces charges in morals probe

## Police say he sent explicit photos to teen

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WATERBURY — A Thomaston man was arrested Friday after police say he exchanged explicit online communications, including photos, with a 14-year-old girl.

Robert Melvin, Jr., 30, of 228 Reynolds Bridge Road, Thomaston, was charged with using a computer to entice a



**Melvin**

minor to engage in sexual activity and impairing the morals of a child.

A warrant for Melvin's arrest was signed in January,

but authorities, including U.S. marshals, were forced to go to Southfield, Mass., to find him last week after they discovered he was living there.

Police claim Melvin met the underage teen on an online chat website called "Wire Club," where users can talk with other people about topics ranging from hobbies to anxiety attacks.

The girl, who was under the supervision of a juvenile probation officer, told police she had met several men online and exchanged sexually explicit emails and videos with them.

Detective Peter Morgan found two emails sent to the girl's account showing a man standing partially clothed in front of a mirror and a close up of the man's genitalia.

After Melvin's computers were seized from his Thomaston home, Morgan used specialized computer software to find those same photos on an iPod Touch that was taken from Melvin's bedroom, according to his arrest warrant.

Melvin later told police he knew the girl was 14 and the two had planned to meet for sex, the warrant states.

Melvin, who is unemployed, is being held on a \$100,000 bond and is due to appear in Waterbury Superior Court later this month.