

24-year-old accused of raping 13-year-old

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Body

The man, who told police he was in the country illegally, faces charges of sexual battery and false imprisonment.

An illegal immigrant from Mexico is **accused of raping** a **13-year-old** girl Tuesday night at his house at 90 Ederington Drive.

Lucio Estrada, 24, faces one count each of sexual battery and false imprisonment, both felonies, according to a Brooksville police report. He was being held Wednesday afternoon at the Hernando County Jail in lieu of \$ 15,000 bail.

RAPE

The incident began about 10:15 p.m. as the girl walked past the suspect's house. Authorities were not releasing the girl's name because of the nature of the crime.

A man sitting on the porch asked the girl for a cigarette. When she went to give him one, he dragged her into the house and shut the door, the report said.

When the girl tried to fight off an attack, the 190-pound man pinned her to the floor and forced her to have sex, the report said.

Later, he gave her \$ 20 and told her not to tell anyone what happened, the report said. Authorities were alerted soon after she left the house.

"It's not clear if she had ever seen him before or had any contact with him," Capt. Ray Schumacher said.

The girl's mother, who lives in Brooksville, was taken into custody for psychological evaluation a few days ago after she tried to commit suicide, Schumacher said. The girl was supposed to be turned over to her father, who lives outside the county.

"We're still looking into why she was back in Brooksville," Schumacher said.

The report said Estrada told police he had consensual sex with the girl.

Florida law states that consensual sex between an adult and a **13-year-old** is a felony, although less severe than non-consensual sex between the same people. Brooksville had no reported **rapes** in 1998, according to Florida Department of Law Enforcement statistics. The county had 72 reports last year.

Estrada, who told the arresting deputy that he was in the country illegally, has no criminal record in Hernando County.

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"This appears to be an isolated incident," Schumacher said.

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