

# Trainer charged with abusing teen girls

KIOWA, Colo., Jan. 22 (UPI) --

A Colorado horse trainer has been charged with sexually abusing teenage girls, including one that he took to Alabama for marriage.

Donald Lane Betts, 33, was arrested in December when he returned to Kiowa with his 16-year-old bride, the Rocky Mountain News reported. Investigators say he lied about her age in Alabama because minors must have parental permission to marry.

Mark Wilson, an investigator with the Elbert County Sheriff's Office, said Betts may have victimized other teens. Wilson charged that Betts targeted troubled girls, including three runaways.

We have a strong belief that there are other victims out there, Wilson said. We stand ready to get them the help that they need.

Betts faces a long list of charges, including second-degree kidnapping, sexual assault on a child, harboring a minor and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. He is also charged with obstruction of a peace officer for locking himself in his house when police arrived to arrest him.

Wilson said that Betts was a respected trainer and horse-shoer, comparing him to the Horse Whisperer, the subject of a popular book and movie.

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