

Suspected Child Molester Back on the Run

Posted: Apr 04, 2012 10:33 PM PDT Updated: Apr 04, 2012 10:33 PM PDT

By Azenith Smith



SALINAS, Calif. - An accused child molester is back on the run and there's a \$5 million bounty on his head. Salinas Police are now calling Rene Cruz a fugitive, after he failed to appear in court Wednesday.

Cruz posted bail and was let go from the Monterey County Jail two weeks ago. It's the last time Cruz's attorney Brian Worthington said, he saw him in person.

Worthington said, he has no idea why his client failed to show up in court. The last time Worthington spoke to Cruz was March 26 and just like last time he was on the run, Cruz's family says they haven't heard from him.

"They want to know he's ok," says Worthington. "They don't know his state of mind at this point. This does put everyone on a tremendous state of uncertainty at this point."

During a preliminary hearing, the alleged victim said Cruz repeatedly molested her in a bedroom closet at a house on Yucatan Way four years ago. But state law makes it almost impossible for someone like Cruz to be held without bond, so he got out of jail.

Whether he ever came back to this house is hard to say, no one's mowed the lawn for weeks.

"We believe that he is a danger to the community," says Sgt. Chris Lane of Salinas Police. "He's a danger to anyone he comes across. His charges are very serious."

Police said, they don't believe Cruz is in Salinas. They now have him in a national database to alert other law enforcement. Police are also looking to work with federal authorities in case he's heading to Mexico.

Cruz was on the run for several weeks in February when police tried to question him about the allegations. That time he eventually turned himself in. This time, police aren't so sure.