

Valpo caregiver faces more allegations

Hobart woman tells police she believes her son was molested

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Police are investigating whether Michael Ritchie, the caregiver

charged with sexually assaulting a mentally disabled man at a Valparaiso group home, also committed similar crimes at a Crown Point group home.

After The Times printed an article Thursday about Ritchie being charged with engaging in sex acts with a 20-year-old man with Down syndrome at an InPact Inc. home in Valparaiso, a Hobart woman reported to Lake and Porter County police she believes Ritchie molested her men-

tally challenged 13-year-old son at an InPact group home in Crown Point.

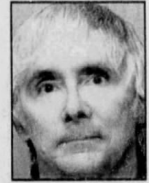
Porter County Sheriff's Maj. Steve Lawrence said that in addition to the Hobart woman's allegation, authorities received one other call of a potential victim.

Ritchie, 57, of 931 Hampton Court, Valparaiso, is currently charged with criminal deviate conduct and sexual battery after being accused of fondling and performing other sex

POLICE SEEKING HELP: Police are asking anyone else who had inappropriate contact with Michael Ritchie to call Detective Sgt. Steve Rose at (219) 477-3134.

acts at the Valparaiso group home.

Police said their investigation showed Ritchie had a Web site with photo albums of small boys, many wearing only underwear or swimsuits.



RITCHIE

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