

CRIME

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He took his teen daughter to a strip club, and now dad must pay price

HIGHLIGHTS

Jose Manuel Arguelles will not be a convicted felon under the plea deal struck Thursday

He took his 16-year-old to the Pink Pony at least five times, and gave her alcohol



BY DAVID OVALLE

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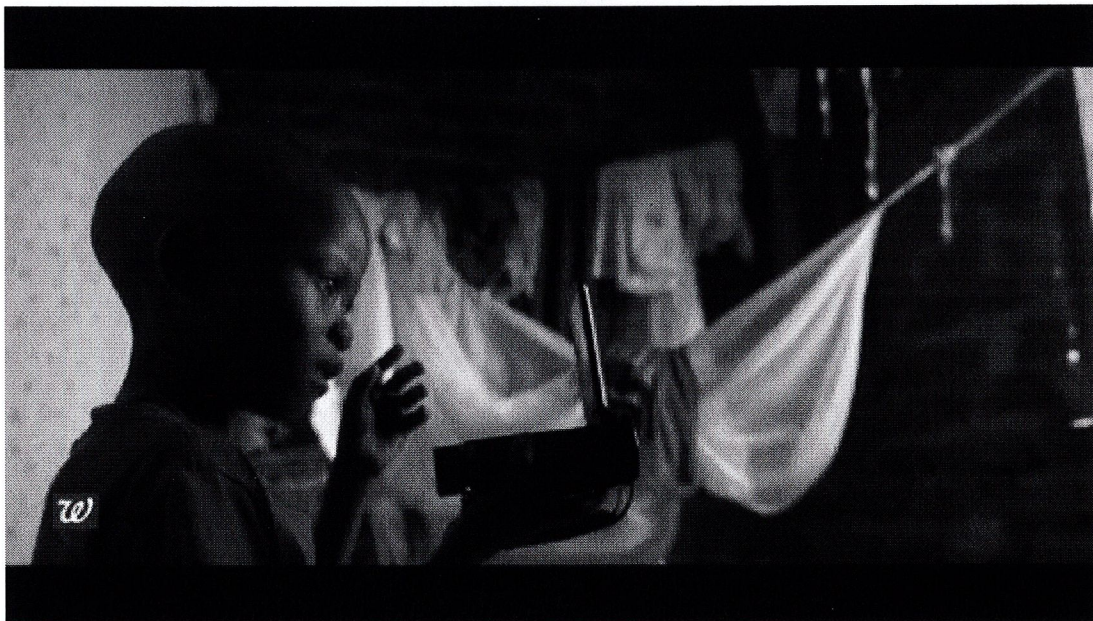
A Miami man who repeatedly took his teen daughter to the Pink Pony strip club to party must serve five years of probation under a plea deal struck on Thursday.

Jose Manuel Arguelles pleaded no contest to 10 counts of child abuse, while prosecutors dropped more serious felony charges of providing drugs to a minor and promoting the sexual performance of a minor.

Under the plea deal, Arguelles will not be a convicted felon, although he did accept guilty pleas to two minor counts of providing alcohol to a minor — video showed him, his 16-year-old daughter and another teen girl drinking in the VIP lounge of the Doral strip club.

“He obviously made a huge lapse in judgment,” said his attorney, Edward O’Donnell IV. “The irony is that he is a very good father.”

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O’Donnell said Arguelles, a car body-shop owner, would often drug-test his daughter and refused to let her get tattoos. Under the plea deal, Arguelles must also remain in his home under a curfew for one year.

Prosecutors have also dropped a misdemeanor charge involving an alligator that was seized from a cage in Arguelles’ backyard.

Hialeah police initially alleged that Arguelles, 60, took his daughter and her 17-year-old friend to the club and allowed them to smoke weed, snort cocaine, and dance on a stage.

The police investigation was sparked after the 17-year-old's mother saw photos and video of the partying on the girl's cellphone.

"The defendant also has photos and videos showing the victims dancing on what appears to be a 'stripper pole' while on the defendant's boat, wearing bikinis in the presence of adults," a detective wrote in an arrest report.

In all, Arguelles admitted to taking her to the Pink Pony five separate times. City inspectors later closed down the Pink Pony.



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Juan Yglesias · Kissimmee, Florida

Oh yeah "he is a very good father" in what country is he classified as a good father? A minimun of 3 years should had been his sentence. Lapse in judgement... No that's what Obama had when he signed the Iran treaty this guy does not have any judgement at all.

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