

More investigations could follow in counselor's sexual abuse case

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A three-week-long Enterprise Police Department investigation that resulted in the arrest of a counselor on sexual abuse charges may be the start of several other cases involving the counselor, according to officials.

Dale County District Attorney Kirke Adams said his office has received several "concerning" phone calls since 51-year-old Virgil Allen Freet of Ozark was released from the Dale County Jail on Tuesday.

Freet was charged with sexual abuse in the first and second degree on Friday in rela-

tion to an investigation that stemmed from allegations of abuse at his Independent Counseling & Assessment Services' office, Enterprise Police Capt. Michael Lolley said.

The company is in Dale County but within the Enterprise police jurisdiction. According to its Web site, the company accepted clients from the Department of Human Resources and offered counseling programs with the Crenshaw County and Enterprise City Schools boards of education.

According to the state Department of Human Resources, counties select service providers based on

their credentials and licenses, as well as on whether the provider is Medicaid-approved.

Lolley said the initial investigation began when the father of one of Freet's teenage clients allowed her to take in electronic surveillance to monitor their conversation.

It was unclear how the alleged victim in the case was referred to the counseling company.

Adams said computers from Freet's office and from his residence will be forensically evaluated and searched.

No other complaints had been filed against Freet as of 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Lolley said.