



## Police warn sexual predators use this app to target kids

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Reporter

**LA VISTA, Neb.** — La Vista police are warning parents to check their child's device for a virtual reality app where one man met his 15-year-old victim.

"The game itself, I don't see anything wrong with the game," said Detective Josh McNeil. "It's more about educating children what to watch out for."

Avakin Life is a 3-D virtual reality app that promises users an amazing virtual experience where "you can become the person you always wanted to be."



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It's the first time La Vista police have come across the app used by a suspected sexual predator.

The game, rated "T" for teens, allows children age 13 to download it on their phones. They can also play it on their computers.

"They can dress very provocative and skimpy on the game, which in turn gets attention from other players," McNeil said.

He said Nicholas Wilkinson, 29, met a 15-year-old girl on the app. He says they moved off the app onto social media sites and a texting app where they communicated through video chats.

"He would make specific requests for her to do something sexual, record herself and ask her to send those videos to him and she obliged. And obviously, that's a problem," he said.

McNeil said that's child pornography. He said the relationship continued for about nine months until Wilkinson's parents became suspicious and looked at his phones. They said the phones were stolen.

"When they were looking through the phones, they saw some concerning images and videos they wanted to report to us," McNeil said. "They made the hard decision and did what needed to be done."

Wilkinson faces three felonies--possession of child pornography, manufacturing of child pornography and online enticement.