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Man Charged for Posing as Police Officer, Extorting Mother of Teen in Sydney Supermarket Incident

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– Categories: Crime



A man has been charged after allegedly impersonating a police officer and attempting to extort \$500 from a teenager's mother during an incident at a supermarket in Sydney's inner west. The alleged confrontation, which occurred in Forest Lodge, involved a false accusation of theft and a demand for payment in exchange for avoiding legal consequences.

According to New South Wales (NSW) Police, the incident took place shortly before midday on Friday when a 16-year-old boy was approached by a man claiming to be a police officer. The suspect reportedly displayed a silver badge in a black leather wallet and accused the teen of shoplifting. He then escorted the boy to a back office inside the store.

The teenager's mother arrived shortly afterward. The man allegedly told her that the situation could be resolved privately in exchange for \$500. Under pressure, the mother complied by purchasing a gift card of equivalent value and handing it over to the suspect.

The matter was reported to police later that day, prompting an investigation. Officers located and arrested the man, who has now been charged with impersonating a police officer and attempting to gain a financial advantage by deception.

No physical injuries were reported, but the case has raised concerns about public safety and the potential for abuse of perceived authority. NSW Police have urged the public to remain cautious when approached by individuals claiming to be law enforcement, particularly outside of official contexts, and to request proper identification if in doubt.

The suspect is expected to appear in court later this month. Authorities continue to remind residents to report any suspicious behavior to local police stations or through Crime Stoppers.