

Former Deputy Gets 30 Years For Child Sex Abuse

December 15, 2010

A former Santa Rosa County Sheriff's deputy was sentenced to 30 years in prison on child sex abuse charges.



John Mitchell Tomlinson, 46, was sentenced to 30 years state prison on each of three counts of sexual battery by a person in familial or custodial authority. All three sentences were to run concurrent. He also was designated a sexual predator for life.

Charges stem from allegations of abuse from his adopted daughter who lived with the defendant for several years, according to State Attorney Bill Eddins.

Tomlinson was a 23-year veteran with the Santa Rosa County Sheriffs Office; he was assigned to the Santa Rosa County Courthouse at the time of his arrest. The defendant still faces additional charges of capital sexual battery in another case stemming from allegations made by a child who was a neighbor to the defendant in the late 1990's.