



Former Marion County deputy accused of "inappropriate relationship" with prison inmate sentenced to three years in prison

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By



Linn County Sheriff's Office

Mark W. Samuels, 54, was arrested on suspicion of having sex with an inmate in Marion County Jail. The woman was not named.

Mark Samuels, a former Marion County Sheriff's deputy, pleaded guilty Friday to charges stemming from what police and prosecutors described as an "inappropriate relationship" with a female jail inmate.

Authorities said Samuels, 54, pleaded guilty before Judge Courtland Geyer to one count of first-degree custodial sexual misconduct, one count of second-degree sexual abuse, two counts of second-degree sexual misconduct and two counts of third-degree sexual abuse.

Samuels was sentenced to a total of 36 months in prison and will be on post-prison supervision for an additional 54 months. He will be registered as a sex offender and will surrender his Oregon

Department of Public Safety and Standards Training corrections certificates, according to the Marion County Sheriff's Office.

Paige Clarkson, Marion County deputy district attorney, said the "relationship" between Samuels and the victim lasted from May through December 2010. Clarkson said it was the result of "power imbalance" and that Samuels was "delusional" in thinking the relationship was consensual.

"We take it very seriously when someone of his position takes advantage of his power," Clarkson said.

Allegations of an inappropriate relationship surfaced in December 2011. Samuels was placed on administrative leave Dec. 8, 2011 as authorities from the Washington County Sheriff's Office investigated the allegations at the request

of Marion County Sheriff Jason Myers.

Samuels was arrested at his Salem home in March, and the sheriff's office fired him in May.

In a statement released after Friday's sentencing, Myers said Samuels' actions "were very disappointing to all of us, and I can assure you the appropriate actions were taken when the situation was discovered."

Myers added, "I support the public's expectations that all members of the sheriff's office are held to the highest professional standards of public safety."

Samuels worked for the sheriff's office for about four years.

—Joseph Fanelli

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