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Burke County sheriff's deputy charged with exchanging drugs for sex

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By: [MORGANTON NEWS HERALD STAFF](#) | Morganton

News Herald

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MORGANTON -- A Burke County sheriff's deputy was charged Monday with exchanging a schedule III controlled substance for sex.

Robert Keith Whisnant, 45, of the Burke County Sheriff's Office was arrested by agents with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation while trying to exchange prescription medication for sexual favors. He was charged with intent to sell and deliver a schedule III controlled substance.

Although authorities have yet to describe the nature of the drugs, schedule III controlled substances are defined by North Carolina state law as drugs that have an accepted medical use, but may lead to dependence if abused. These include recreational substances like ketamine, anabolic steroids and some barbiturates.

Burke County Sheriff Steve Whisenant said a more detailed account of the incident and subsequent arrest will be available Tuesday morning.

"We first began looking into the case a couple weeks ago and have handed it over to SBI since then," Whisenant said.

Whisnant was released Monday night in lieu of a \$10,000 unsecured bond.

His first appearance in court is scheduled for Wednesday.

Whisnant began his career at the sheriff's office as a jailer back in 1994. His position as deputy was terminated effective Monday.

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Becky Lowman · East Burke High

I truly feel that the officer is really beating his self up, he don't need any put downs from other people. yea where is the woman that was involved in this mess is she not a