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Ex-State Patrol trooper ordered to not transfer money, assets

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August 24, 2012 2:05 pm • By [KEVIN O'HANLON](#) / Lincoln Journal Star[\(2\) Comments](#)

A judge has ordered a former state trooper in prison for sexually assaulting a girl to not transfer any money or assets while he challenges a new state law that would allow his pension to be tapped to pay a \$325,000 civil judgment against him stemming from the crime.

Lancaster County District Judge Paul Merritt Jr. issued the order Friday in the case of former State Patrol Maj. Billy Hobbs, who was sentenced in 2006 to 25 to 30 years in prison for first-degree sexual assault of a child. Investigators said the sexual contact went on for nearly two years, starting when the girl was 12.

The damage award against Hobbs was the result of a lawsuit filed by the girl's father, whose name is not being published to protect her identity. The father's lawyer, John Ballew of Lincoln, said in court records that London helped Hobbs open bank accounts in Wyoming and Belize.

Merritt also told Hobbs' lawyer, Dana London of Lincoln, that he would have to file a separate action to mount his challenge to the new law, which was passed in April in response to a Nebraska Supreme Court ruling involving Hobbs. London maintains that the law is unconstitutional because it amounts to an ex post facto taking of benefits Hobbs earned with the State Patrol.

Hobbs, 57, gets a monthly pension of more than \$3,700, minus \$1,853.15 that goes to his ex-wife as part of their divorce decree, and the payments have continued while he is in prison.



Billy Hobbs

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