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Lake deputy arrested, charged with sexual battery of child

BY MILLARD K. IVES

STAR-BANNER

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TAVARES - A Lake County sheriff's deputy has been arrested after he was accused of molesting a child under 12 years old.

Edmund Dawes III, 42, was in the Lake County Jail late Monday after being picked up on an arrest warrant from Broward County. He is being held without bond on two counts of lewd or lascivious molestation and one count of sexual battery and is awaiting transfer to Broward County.

Dawes was hired by the Lake County Sheriff's Office in June 2002. He has been suspended without pay.

According to the arrest warrant, the alleged offenses occurred between July 1994 and August 2001.

A spokesman for the Broward County Sheriff's Office said Monday authorities there only became aware of the allegations this month.

When Dawes was residing in Pompano Beach sometime between July 1994 and December of 1998, he is alleged to have touched a child under the age of 12 years in a lewd and lascivious manner, the warrant states.

Also, while in North Lauderdale sometime between January 1999 and August 2001, he is accused of touching a child under 12 in a lewd and lascivious manner, as well as touching a girl's body with his mouth while in a position of authority.

The final allegation brought the sexual battery charge.

It is not clear from the warrant whether more than one child is involved.

Deputy Dawes has received two letters of reprimand from the Lake County Sheriff's Office, one in 2005 for conduct unbecoming an officer when he allegedly became obsessed with a woman he had previously responded to on a call.

An internal affairs report says Dawes kept calling and coming over to the home and gave the woman gifts and food.

He received a second letter of reprimand and was docked one day's pay after being accused of failing to document a report in June about criminal mischief to a vehicle.

Millard K. Ives can be reached at millard.ives@starbanner.com or (352) 387-2488.

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