



Former officer sentenced to state prison

Published: Wednesday, February 28, 2007, 11:22 AM Updated: Friday, March 09, 2007, 8:19 PM



By **MONICA VON DOBENECK, The Patriot-News**

Former South Londonderry Twp. police officer Richard Dimond received a sentence of 8 months to 3 years in state prison and a \$3,000 fine on a charge of corruption of minors, a misdemeanor.

District attorney Dave Arnold, who prosecuted the case, said it is one of the stiffest sentences he has seen for the charge, but he thinks it is justified because Dimond violated the public's trust.

Dimond's attorney, Roger Laguna, said he was disappointed.

"People say cops get preferential treatment, but because he's a cop, he gets slammed," he said.

The charges stem from a relationship Dimond, 33, of North Cornwall Twp., had with a teenage girl. He was charged after a 16-year-old girl sent him two topless photographs of herself by e-mail. Dimond deleted the photos after looking at them without saving or copying them, according to testimony, so Lebanon County Judge Robert Eby earlier dismissed the more serious felony charge of sexual abuse of children/child pornography.

Dimond also exchanged e-mails of a sexual nature with the girl before she turned 16, according to earlier testimony.

Dimond met the girl while investigating a sexual assault case in which she said she was raped by two men when she was 14.

Judge Robert Eby said the public puts special trust in the people who are supposed to protect us.

"All these people in Lebanon County were hurt by this," he said. "Certainly everyone who wears a police badge. You put disrespect on your profession."

© 2012 PennLive.com. All rights reserved.