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Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Former Deputy Carl Graves Accused of Raping 13-year-old

Jurors heard opening statements Wednesday afternoon in the trial of a former Brevard County sheriff's deputy accused of raping a 13-year-old girl.

An attorney for Carl E. Graves, 47, said he maintains that he is innocent of six counts of sexual battery and three counts of molestation. Each charge is a second-degree felony, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

A two-day jury selection process wrapped up Tuesday in Circuit Judge George Maxwell's courtroom at the Moore Justice Center in Viera.

Legal wrangling between Graves and his attorneys over their possible withdrawal from the case halted proceedings until this afternoon. Attorneys resumed about 2 p.m. to go forward with opening statements.

Sheriff's deputies arrested Graves in May 2007, a month after his former girlfriend went to police with allegations that she caught the Cocoa man holding her daughter against a wall and trying to kiss her, according to an arrest affidavit.

Police said the teen told them that the sexual contact progressed from inappropriately touching her during trips to buy the girl candy, soda and cigarettes to forcing her to have sex several times in summer 2006.

Officials said Graves was fired in February 2007 before the rape allegations.

Labels: [child rape](#), [Florida](#), [molesting child](#), [sexual battery](#)



Reactions: interesting (0) ignorant (0) loser (0)

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Quotes:

"Any time a law enforcement officer is accused of tarnishing the badge, it is an embarrassment to all the honest, hard-working members of this profession who work day in and day out to protect and serve with integrity."

"I'm sickened by this officer's betrayal of the badge. We cannot let one single act by one officer overshadow the brave work by men and women who wear the uniform and put themselves in harm's way everyday to protect our families and our neighborhoods."

"We have to be held accountable for our actions," said Police Chief John Ewing. "Just because we wear a badge, it doesn't mean we can break the law. We need to treat our police officers like someone who was walking down the street who may commit