



## Ex-cop Barrington pleads guilty, sentenced to 30 years in prison

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Former Springfield police officer Kevin Barrington pleaded guilty Friday to sexual assault charges and was sentenced to 30 years in prison.

Barrington, 52, was charged last summer with sexually assaulting two girls when they were minors. His trial on 13 sex charges was to begin on Monday.

However, during a final pretrial hearing late Friday, Barrington told his attorney, Dan Fultz, that he wished to plead guilty.

He admitted to 11 charges involving one of the girls, who was 13 or 14 when the assaults began. Both girls are now adults.

First assistant state's attorney John Milhiser said 30 years is the maximum sentence Barrington could have received unless the judge found certain factors existed that would make the sentences consecutive.

Barrington backed out of a plea agreement in January that would have resulted in an 18-year prison sentence.

Fultz said Barrington will serve about 14 years in prison, assuming he is given good-time credit. Barrington's crimes qualified for day-for-day good time when they were committed. If he had been charged under current law, some of the charges would have required consecutive sentences and would have required Barrington to serve at least 85 percent of the sentence.

Barrington, who was on the police force for 22 years, pleaded guilty to three counts of aggravated criminal sexual assault, three counts of criminal sexual assault, two counts of aggravated criminal sexual abuse and three counts of sexual relations with family.

Two counts of criminal sexual assault involving the younger of the two girls girl were dismissed in exchange for the plea, as was a charge that Barrington violated an order of protection by contacting his wife and one of his victims by telephone from the Sangamon County Jail.

Barrington's family and the two women were in court when Barrington told Fultz he wanted to plead guilty.

"The victims were in agreement with the terms of the plea," Milhiser said.

"We're satisfied with it, and the victims don't have to come to court and testify," he said. "This hopefully allows them to put this behind them."

Fultz said it was important to Barrington that the agreement was acceptable to his family.

"He apologized to his family and asked that they forgive him," Fultz said. "He really didn't want to put his family through a trial."

Fultz said he and Barrington had been going back and forth for several days about terms of a plea.

"He leaned over and said he wanted to plead guilty," Fultz said. "I reminded him that 90 seconds ago, he didn't want to plead, and the judge (Circuit Judge John Belz) gave us a few minutes to be sure."

"I commend the state's attorney's office and the Springfield Police Department for working with us to put together a fair agreement," Fultz said.

Detectives were informed June 1, 2009, of alleged sexual misconduct by Barrington, a well-known neighborhood police officer on Springfield's north end. He was arrested June 21 at his home.

Barrington was relieved of his police powers June 20, 2009, and put on paid leave two days later. He subsequently retired from the police force.

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