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Deputy admits raping family member, sheriff says

Says he was sexually abused as child.



Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre talks Wednesday in Lockport about the arrest of deputy David Lewellen.

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Staff Writer

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LOCKPORT — A Lafourche sheriff's deputy charged Tuesday with raping a 6-year-old family member confessed to the crime and told investigators he was sexually abused as a child, Sheriff Craig Webre said Wednesday.

David Lewellen, who worked as a patrolman and correctional officer during two separate stints with the Sheriff's Office, is accused of having a sexual relationship with the girl that lasted from November until his arrest.

The 33-year-old Thibodaux resident is charged with aggravated rape, the state's most severe sex crime. If convicted he faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison. Prosecutors can opt to seek the death penalty, though it is rarely done. Lewellen was moved to the St. John the Baptist Parish jail shortly after he was booked in Lafourche. He is being held in lieu of a \$250,000 bond.

The victim detailed Lewellen's alleged sexual acts in interviews at the Children's Advocacy Center Monday, Webre said. She was not injured, but will be examined for physical evidence that could tie Lewellen to the crimes.

"The abuse of any child is a horrendous crime," Webre said. "Anyone who takes advantage of a child is the most despicable criminal there is."

Authorities seized Lewellen's personal computer from his home Monday. The computer will be sent to the Attorney General's Office for inspection. He could potentially face child-pornography charges based on the computer's contents, Webre said.

Authorities will also probe the validity of Lewellen's allegations of his own abuse, and could bring charges against his attacker, if one exists, Webre said. At this point, sheriff's investigators do not have the name of that person.

[Deputy admits raping family member, sheriff says](#) Raymond Legendre