

# Judge: Ex-cop gets 10 years probation for tampering charge

**Bob Thaxton | Posted: Thursday, March 3, 2011 12:00 am**

SEGUIN - A former police officer accused of soliciting an underage girl for sex and then destroying copies of his text messages in an attempt to cover it up was sentenced to 10 years probation Wednesday in 274th District Court.

District Judge Gary Steel assessed punishment of 10 years in state prison probated for 10 years for Fidel Carlos Castillo IV who pleaded guilty to evidence tampering in connection with deleting text messages sent to the girl.

Castillo, 41, had been an officer with the Seguin Police Department for 15 years. He resigned in July 2010 after he was placed on administrative leave while the department and Texas Rangers investigated allegations in a case that Castillo himself had brought to the attention of Police Chief Kevin Kelso.

In an open plea agreement with the office of District Attorney Heather Miller, Castillo was required to permanently surrender his Texas law enforcement license, and prosecutors agreed to drop the charge of online solicitation of a minor.

Steel, in a brief sentencing hearing Wednesday, also ordered Castillo to perform 200 hours of community service and to pay a \$2,000 fine, \$344 in court costs and other fees totaling \$7,300.

Steel said Castillo would be required to undergo the "sex offender protocol" administered by the probation department but would not be required to register as a sex offender.

"Once I do that, it's hard to undo," Steel said regarding sex offender registration. "I don't want to tie a knot I can't untie."

Steel said he would be willing to meet with Castillo's attorney, Paul Parash, to discuss modifying requirements of the "sex offender protocol" after those requirements have been fully described to Castillo by the probation department.

Kelso said an investigation was ordered immediately after the allegations were brought to his attention.

"Within five minutes, we were looking into it," Kelso said. "Officer Castillo went on administrative leave immediately." Records show that Castillo was placed on leave on June 23, 2010.

As the police department began its internal investigation, officials learned that Texas Ranger Joey Evans already had begun an investigation of the allegations.

Castillo on July 5 submitted a letter of resignation effective July 10, and his resignation was accepted.

The Guadalupe County grand jury on Aug. 8 returned a two-count indictment accusing Castillo of online solicitation of a minor in text messages sent around June 20 and tampering or fabricating physical evidence with intent to impair investigation or prosecution in connection with the text messages being deleted.

Both offenses are third-degree felonies punishable by two to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

Castillo on Aug. 9 turned himself in at the Guadalupe County Jail, and he was released later that day on personal recognizance bonds totaling \$20,000.