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Ex-deputy seeks to withdraw guilty plea on sex charges

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By Ed Richter, Staff Writer

5:53 PM Monday, May 10, 2010

LEBANON — A former Montgomery County Sheriff's deputy slated to be sentenced Tuesday, May 11, has apparently changed his mind and is seeking to withdraw his guilty plea to having sexual contact with a boy.

Michael Pizzo, 43, of Xenia, entered a motion to withdraw his guilty plea to a bill of information on May 6.

Assistant Prosecutor Matt Nolan said Pizzo's attorney has found, after additional research, the victim may have been 16 years old at the time these events occurred.

Pizzo plead guilty to the bill of information on April 6 to unlawful sexual contact, a fourth-degree felony. He was facing a penalty of up to 18 months in prison and a fine of up to \$5,000 as well as being designated as a Tier II sex offender.

Pizzo is accused of having sexual contact with the minor boy in the Waynesville area in late 2007 and into 2008. He had met the boy online through the Craigslist website, Nolan said.

Pizzo's last day of employment as a deputy sheriff was March 26, according to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. He had been with the sheriff's office since 1994.

Nolan said the case has been continued to June 15 so that prosecutors could review the case and Pizzo's motion.

Contact this reporter at (513) 696-4504 or erichter@coxohio.com.

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