

[Home](#) / [News](#) / [News](#)

Former North Dakota judge Randall Hoffman faces 52 felonies

- [Story](#)

Former North Dakota judge Randall Hoffman faces 52 felonies

By LAUREN DONOVAN Bismarck Tribune BismarckTribune.com | Posted: Friday, September 24, 2010
11:45 pm

Font Size:

[Default font size](#)

[Larger font size](#)



[Buy this photo](#)

Photo taken on Sept. 22, 2010, at the Mercer County jail in Stanton, N.D.

Elgin's police chief and only officer, also a former district court judge, is in jail after being charged with 52 felonies alleging molestation and attempted rape of a minor girl over the course of about five years.

Randall L. Hoffman, 55, remains in the Mercer County Jail in Stanton on \$500,000 cash bond after being arrested Wednesday for continuous sexual abuse of a child, gross sexual imposition and 50 counts of corruption or solicitation of a minor.

A criminal complaint accused Hoffman of having sexual contact with the girl beginning in 2005, when she was 12 or 13 years old, according to the Associated Press. It alleges that Hoffman “engaged in at least 50 sexual acts” with the girl, who is now 17, from August 2008 until this month, then attempted to rape her Wednesday.

Grant County State’s Attorney James Vukelic said the bond hearing was held Friday morning and South Central District Judge Tom Schneider agreed to Vukelic’s request for cash-in-full only.

During the video hearing, Hoffman requested a court-appointed lawyer and said nothing about the allegations against him, according to the AP.

“I don’t have an alcohol problem. I don’t do drugs,” Hoffman said after listening to his release restrictions.

Vukelic argued Hoffman might flee the state if released, to which Hoffman responded, “I have family in central North Dakota who would be willing to be responsible for me during the interim period.”

The prosecutor said the alleged molestation started in 2005 and continued through this week, when the minor reported the abuse to an adult, who in turn contacted authorities.

“He had sex with the child repeatedly,” Vukelic said.

The attempted rape apparently took place in the early hours of Wednesday and Hoffman was taken into custody later that day, he said.

The city of Elgin immediately suspended Hoffman without pay, and he was terminated as a deputized officer of the Grant County Sheriff’s Department, Vukelic said.

Mayor Duane Schatz said Friday that Hoffman has been put on administrative leave since his arrest.

Grant County contracts with Mercer County for jail services.

Hoffman resigned from his district judgeship in April 1999 after facing a disciplinary complaint. After review, the Judicial Conduct Commisison filed a disciplinary suspension on July 7, 1999. The committee found that he was stalking, harassing and exhibiting abusive conduct toward his ex-wife following their divorce.

Hoffman ran unsuccessfully for Stutsman County prosecutor a year after his resignation, and sought election in 2002 to the same judgeship he had left. Earlier that year, he asked Gov. John Hoeven to appoint him to an East Central District judgeship in Fargo, saying in a letter that his previous difficulties were nothing to worry about and he had “high moral character.” Hoffman did not make a list of finalists for the job.

In 2003, the Supreme Court Disciplinary Board suspended his license to practice law for his misconduct in

legal proceedings between his second wife and her ex-husband in a child custody matter. The board declined to reinstate his license in 2005, finding that he had practiced law without a license in his second wife's visitation disputes.

According to the AP, during the bond hearing, Vukelic said the number of charges against Hoffman were "purposely underestimated" and that there was "strong corroboration" for allegations detailed in a Bureau of Criminal Investigation affidavit in the case. Schneider ordered the document sealed. He also ordered Hoffman to wear electronic monitoring and remain at least 1,000 yards from his victim if he is released on bond.

His first appearance will be Oct. 11 at the Grant County Courthouse in Carson.

Continuous abuse of a child is a Class AA felony, punishable by up to life in prison. Attempted rape, a form of gross sexual imposition, is a Class A felony, and the 50 counts of corrupting a minor are each a Class C felony.

In arguing for a high bond, Vukelic said Hoffman's wife had described him as "a volatile and angry person" and said the girl and her family "have every reason to fear retribution," the AP quoted Vukelic as saying. "He has nothing to lose."

(The Associated Press contributed to this story. Reach reporter Lauren Donovan at 701-748-5511 or lauren@westriv.com.)

Copyright 2011 BismarckTribune.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in State-and-regional on *Friday, September 24, 2010 11:45 pm* Updated: 11:21 am. | Tags: Randall Hoffman, Elgin, Judge, Jim Vukelic, Jamestown,

Related

- Randall Hoffman pleads not guilty to 52 sex charges
- Former police officer and judge Hoffman pleads guilty to three sex charges

Share This Story

Print Email ShareThis

Other Stories

- Brush Lake Pavilion steeped in summertime tradition
- Highway 22 detour driving some North Dakotans crazy

- Dickinson State University president says he won't resign
- Police: Property crime up in Minot since flood
- No word from Dickinson State head about resigning
- Man accused of killing Minot mother of his child
- Farm land values increase in the Dakotas
- 2-year-old Fargo girl hit by car dies in hospital

Sponsored Links

[Find it locally](#)

Yellowise helps you find the product or service you need in your area.
www.Yellowise.com

[Mortgage Rate at 2.37%](#)

Get the Best Mortgage Rates. Refinance & Lower Your Mortgage Payment!
Mortgage.LeadSteps.com

[\\$79/HR Job - 476 Openings](#)

Make \$79/hr Working From Home. Requirements: Computer. As Seen On MSN.
www.athometypingjobs.org/jobs

Ads by Yahoo!

AdChoices 