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APD officer indicted on rape counts

Officer Tank Guenther accused of raping a relative

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Reporter: David Romero

ALBUQUERQUE (KRQE) - Albuquerque police officer Tank Guenther has been indicted on twenty six counts of criminal sexual penetration of a minor.

According to the Grand Jury Indictment, filed on Wednesday, Guenther molested a young relative from 2002 to 2005 and at times raped her. The girl was between the ages of 10 and 13 while the alleged assaults took place.

He was also charged with threatening a witness and tampering with evidence.

The indictment states Guenther threatened the victim to not tell police and tore pages out of her diary that might have had evidence against him.

The allegations surfaced in 2009. That is when the Albuquerque Police Department put the nine-year patrol officer on desk duty.

After the indictment was filed Guenther was placed on administrative leave.

On Thursday, Police Chief Ray Schultz said he holds his officers to a higher standard. He also said the allegations were a surprise to him and the department takes them very seriously.

Schultz said APD is now working on an internal investigation to determine Guenther's employment status.

"It is a clear violation of our policy that you cannot be a

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police officer while under indictment," Schultz said.

Schultz said the internal investigation should be complete in about two weeks.

As for his time on the police force, Schultz said Guenther has never been in trouble with the department.

He was a patrol officer in the Northeast Heights and Footbills before his desk assignment and paid leave.

Guenther has not been arrested or faced a judge on the allegations.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Detectives conducted the investigation.

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