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Macon Co. police officer accused of sexually assaulting girl

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By HUEY FREEMAN | Lee News Service pantagraph.com | Posted: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 1:15 pm | (27) Comments

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DECATUR -- A part-time officer on the Warrensburg Police Department was arrested early Wednesday morning on charges of sexual assault of a 9-year-old girl.

Decatur Police detectives arrested Douglas H. Spensley, 42, at his Decatur home without incident, according to a news release.

It is believed that the alleged assault occurred at Spensley's home within the past week.

"According to our investigation, Mr. Spensley is believed to be a family friend of the victim's parents," said Todd Walker, deputy chief of the Decatur Police Department.

Spensley was being held Wednesday afternoon in the Macon County Jail. His bond was set at \$500,000, in accordance with the charge of predatory criminal sexual assault. If convicted on that charge, a Class X felony, he would face six to 30 years in prison.

Walker said the investigation of Spensley's activities is continuing.

"We don't have any evidence to suggest there are other victims," Walker said, "but we are looking into that to ensure there aren't other victims."

Spensley, a member of Warrensburg's police force since 2006, has been placed on unpaid administrative leave, pending an internal investigation and any other criminal proceedings, said Greg Wheeler, Warrensburg Police Chief.

Warrensburg, a village of about 1,300 people, located five miles northwest of Decatur, has 15 officers on its police department, including full-time, part-time and auxiliary members.

Macon County Sheriff Thomas Schneider said that because Spensley is a police officer he will be protected from the other inmates.

"If he stays with us long term, he will be kept away from the general population," Schneider said. "He will be held in the booking area. If he doesn't make bond, he will be kept in isolation."

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