

Tuesday, March 06, 2012

Lawsuit filed against former Bedford Co. deputy over alleged sexual relationship with student

According to the lawsuit, the former school resource officer initiated an inappropriate relationship with a Liberty High School student.

By [Duncan Adams](#)
981-3324

BEDFORD -- The father of a Bedford County teenager has filed a \$3 million lawsuit on her behalf in Bedford County Circuit Court against Ernest William Grubbs, a former deputy sheriff and school resource officer in the county, and Sheriff Mike Brown in connection with Grubbs' alleged sexual relationship with the girl when she was a student at Liberty High School.

The lawsuit, filed Friday by Elvin McCombs, alleges that Grubbs initiated an inappropriate relationship with the teenager, Audrey McCombs, when the teen was 15 years old and that Grubbs "methodically groomed plaintiff so that she would believe that he loved her and therefore transition their inappropriate relationship to a physical level."

The lawsuit alleges that Grubbs sexually assaulted the girl "on multiple occasions both on school grounds and at other locations." And it charges that Brown "knew or should have known" that Grubbs was engaged in an inappropriate relationship with the girl.

Brown said Monday afternoon that he was not yet aware of the lawsuit, but said he was not surprised by its filing. He said that "when official notification is made to the department, we will forward to risk management, through our county attorney, and respond in an appropriate manner."

Grubbs, who was 47 when initially arrested on criminal charges related to the case, had served since 2004 as a school resource officer at Liberty High School in Bedford County. He was arrested Oct. 19 and charged with 12 felony counts of taking indecent liberties with a child by a person in a custodial relationship. He had told a state police investigator that his relationship with a 16-year-old Liberty student had "gone too far," according to a search warrant filed in the case.

He was freed on \$5,000 bail and subsequently fled the area with McCombs. He was captured Nov. 9 driving west on Interstate 64 in Kentucky after he used his debit card to buy gas at a convenience store in the small mountain town of Rush, Ky., and was returned to Virginia.

The criminal case against Grubbs is set for trial April 9 in Bedford County. The Roanoke County commonwealth's attorney office is handling the criminal case as a special prosecution. Grubbs remains jailed.

THE ROANOKE TIMES
roanoke.com

Copyright © 2012