

Cherokee County Detention Center officer charged with sex crime involving girl, 7

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A Cherokee County Detention Center officer has been fired after his arrest on a sex charge involving a 7-year-old girl.

Harold Glenn Phillips, 36, of 3083 Corinth Road, Gaffney, has been charged by the State Law Enforcement Division with first-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor under age 11.

Cherokee County Sheriff Steve Mueller said the child's mother reported the allegations to the sheriff's office on July 19. The woman said Phillips had touched the girl in the genital area on multiple occasions since January, Mueller said.

SLED opened an investigation on July 20. Mueller said Phillips took a polygraph test administered by SLED, and admitted to the allegations after the test.

Phillips had worked for the Cherokee County Detention Center since July 20, 2009. Mueller said Phillips was a good employee, often volunteering to work overtime assignments.

"This is a very unfortunate incident for the child," Mueller said. "This is something the child will have to live with the rest of her life."

Phillips was transferred to the Spartanburg County Detention Center. Officials felt it would be safer for Phillips to be housed away from inmates he may have booked into or supervised at the Cherokee jail.

He remained in jail Tuesday awaiting a bond hearing.

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