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KCBD

Former LPD officer expected to plead guilty to sexual assault of a child

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By Chelsea Davis - bio | email

LUBBOCK, TX (KCBD) - A former Lubbock police officer facing charges of sexual assault of a child could learn his fate on Monday.

More than three years ago, Jason Hignight's adopted daughters walked into the police station and told officers their father was molesting them.

After years gathering evidence and postponed trials, attorneys have finally worked out a deal.

Hignight is expected to plead guilty in exchange for a 15-year sentence.

The former LPD officer is accused of molesting two of his adopted daughters, who were 12 and 16 years old at the time.

According to police statements, Hignight's then-wife walked in and saw him exposing himself.

In January of 2011, the 16-year-old told police it started three years prior and that Hignight had been "feeling on" her. She said they also had sex.

The teen told detectives it mostly happened on his days off when her mom wasn't home.

According to the report, the 12-year-old told investigators that her dad would drive out in the country and she would sit in his lap while he put his hand up her shirt.

Hignight graduated from the Lubbock Police Academy in July of 2010.

At the time he had recently completed field training and hit the streets on his own.

In 2009, he posted on Facebook that he was planning on adopting six children.

Police say five children lived at the Hignight house at the time of his arrest.

Sources say Hignight was originally facing two to 20 years in prison, but his punishment range was enhanced because he was the adopted father of the victims.

Consequently, he faced a five to 99 years or life in prison. He could have also received probation.

He is expected to plead guilty in exchange for 15 years in prison on Monday.

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