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## Former Columbia County sheriff's deputy sentenced to more than 6 years for sex crimes

Published: Wednesday, March 07, 2012, 3:45 PM Updated: Wednesday, March 07, 2012, 5:14 PM

By **Kate Mather, The Oregonian**

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Columbia County Sheriff's Office

John Lawrence Hinkle

A former **Columbia County sheriff's deputy** pleaded guilty to sexually assaulting a family member Tuesday and will spend more than six years in prison.

Court documents show John Lawrence Hinkle, 48, of St. Helens, was sentenced to 75 months on charges of attempted rape, attempted sodomy, incest and first-degree sex abuse, **a Measure 11 crime**.

Hinkle was initially indicted on more than 30 counts, said Columbia County District Attorney Steve Atchison, but many were dropped as part of the plea agreement.

Hinkle must also register as a sex offender after his release and will spend 10 years on post-prison supervision. He was also ordered to avoid contact with the victim, who is now an adult.

"She really preferred not to go to trial," Atchison said. "The victim was satisfied with the plea and we're happy that she got what she felt was

just."

Atchison said he did push for a longer sentence because of Hinkle's job as a sheriff's deputy when the crimes occurred in the mid- to late-2000s.

"He was in a position of trust when this happened," Atchison said.

**Oregon State Police detectives arrested Hinkle in Woodburn on May 6, 2011.** He had resigned from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office in 2010 following an internal investigation regarding his work performance, said Sheriff Jeff Dickerson. The investigation was unrelated to the sex abuse case.

Hinkle was hired as a full-time sheriff's deputy in 2006, Dickerson said.

-- **Kate Mather**

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John will be very popular in custody.

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He will be forced to PC up immediately. He wont have a choice in the matter. The corrections department wont want to be held responsible for him being beat or killed or both or for him being sexually assaulted repeatedly. He could sue for any of that and if he were put in general population you can bet it will all happen.

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Guy deserved more than 6 years.

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he won't get raped, there's enough freaks that give it away for free, however he will be segregated immediatly unless he beats the first guy badly...he will be extorted you can bet on that. all freaks pay...

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