


[Sign in](#) | [Register for free](#)
[f Sign in with Facebook](#)
[Site Search](#)
[Search Local Business Listings](#)
 Search for keywords, people, locations, obituaries, Web ID and more..

[Home](#) | [News](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Interact](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Autos](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Find n Save](#)
[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Education](#) | [Environment](#) | [Local](#) | [Obits](#) | [Photos](#) | [Politics](#) | [Special Coverage](#) | [US & World](#) | [Weather](#) | [more News](#)

Top
Stories



Horse slaughter plant planned for eastern Oregon



Free iPad app: 'Best of the Northwest'



Traffic concerns grow with North Williams development...

[Home](#) > [Pacific Northwest News](#) > [Breaking News](#)

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**

[Follow](#)

[Recommend](#)

45 people recommend this. Be the first of your friends.

[Tweet](#) 7

1

4

[Share](#)

[Email](#)

[Print](#)



[View full size](#)

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**

Related topics: [columbia county sheriff's deputy](#), [john lawrence hinkle](#), [sex crimes](#)

FIND A STORE AdChoices

Today's jackpot:
\$171 Million.

[Learn More](#)

MEGA MILLIONS calottery

Please play responsibly. Must be 18 or older to play. Jackpots paid in 26 annual payments. MEGA Millions® overall odds: 1 in 40. Jackpot odds: 1 in 176 million.

More Pacific Northwest News

Most Comments

Most Recent

Pacific Northwest News stories with the most comments in the last 7 days.

- 286** [Oregon losing Money Match game in Public Employees Retirement System fund](#)
- 196** [Horse slaughter plant planned for eastern Oregon after change in national rules](#)
- 106** [Oregon's Public Employees Retirement System releases more-detailed retiree data](#)
- 93** [Robert Berdahl, University of Oregon interim president, catches PERS wave and \\$115,000 a year](#)
- 84** [U.S. Army sergeant accused of killing 16 in Afghan villages](#)

Sponsored Links