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Thursday, January 20, 2011

## Hardeman County Deputy Fired & Charged With Sexual Assault of a Child & Possession of a Controlled Substance

Bayou Vista, Texas

A former Bayou Vista police officer and the grandson of a Galveston County justice of the peace faces sexual assault of a child charges from a northeast Texas county.

Michael John Nelson, 24, was working as a deputy in Hardeman County when a teenage girl accused him of sexual assault, officials said.

Nelson could not be reached for comment.

Nelson joined the Hardeman County Sheriff's Office in February 2010 and was fired from his job in September in part because of the allegations Nelson had sex with a 16-year-old neighbor, Chief Deputy Paul Nix said.

Hardeman County, which is near the Texas-Oklahoma border in northeast Texas, turned the investigation over to the Texas Rangers, which conducted a three-month investigation.

Last week, Nelson was charged with two counts of sexual assault of a minor as well as possession of a controlled substance. He turned himself in and posted \$250,000 bond.

Nelson returned to Galveston County and took a job last month as a reserve officer with the Bayou Vista Police Department, Chief Ed Lucas said.

Nelson is the grandson of Pct. 4 Justice of the Peace Mike W. Nelson, who also oversees court matters for the city of Bayou Vista.

[Source](#)

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