



## Former Jacksonville cop pleads guilty to 2 sex counts involving girls

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By [Jim Schoettler](#)

Former veteran Jacksonville cop Richard Cannon pleaded guilty Thursday to two sex charges in attacks on two girls.

Cannon, 48, faces up to 30 years in prison in the attacks on one girl younger than 12 and another younger than 18, according to the State Attorney's Office.

Cannon was arrested a year ago after the two victims told police about the attacks, which occurred between June 2008 and August 2011. He was charged with 13 counts of sex crimes. He pleaded guilty to attempted capital sexual battery and custodial sexual battery. The victims' families supported the plea bargain, the State Attorney's Office said.

"This plea agreement protects our two victims," Assistant State Attorney Theresa Simak said. "Now these children do not have to face their abuser or relive in court the horrible crimes committed against them."

Cannon was a police officer for 25 years. He will be sentenced next month.

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