

Sam A. Bowman, Frederick County sheriff's deputy, arrested for having sex with minor

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(AP) - A Frederick County sheriff's deputy accused of sexually abusing a 14-year-old girl is making his first appearance before a circuit court judge.

Forty-six-year-old Sam Bowman of New Market had a pretrial conference scheduled Tuesday afternoon in Frederick.

He faces three counts of fourth-degree sex offense and one count of sexually abusing a minor.

Bowman was a school resource officer at Walkersville High School. He allegedly had sexual contact with the ninth-grader after driving her home from school in March.

Frederick deputy arrested for sex with minor

A Frederick County sheriff's deputy has been arrested for having sex with a 14-year-old girl, officials said in a statement released Thursday.

Deputy Sam A. Bowman, 46, of New Market, Md., was taken into custody Wednesday and charged with child sex abuse and a fourth-degree sex offense.

According to an investigation by the Frederick County Bureau of Investigation, on March 9, Bowman drove the girl to her home after school and had sex with her there at least once. The child's parents were not home at this time. It's still unclear if Bowman had sex with the girl on other occasions.

Frederick County Sheriff Chuck Jenkins calls the arrest of a deputy on child sex abuse charges deeply troubling.

He says he is very upset by a sheriff's deputy entrusted with protecting children allegedly harming a fourteen year old girl.

Detectives learned of the relationship after Child Protective Services contacted the Sheriff's Office with a tip from a third party.

Bowman was being held at the Frederick County Adult Detention Center, but later released on \$75,000 bond.

Bowman, a 20-year veteran of the Frederick Police Department, started at the Frederick County Sheriff's Office in August 2010. He was assigned as a school resource officer at Walkersville High School.

He has been suspended without pay.

Students at Walkerville High School, who know the 14-year-old alleged victim, said they occasionally saw her speaking with Bowman. One of the students said he saw the girl get into Bowman's car after school.

"I saw her go with him like two hours after she got dismissed from school," said Walkerville High School student Brandon Cochrane.

One student, Michael Hassett, said students would see the deputy every day and he was friendly. But he also said Bowman was "creepy."

Another student, Jacob Beck, said Bowman appeared to pay more attention to female students.

"He was always talking with the students but maybe the girls a little more than the guys," he said.