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Since You Asked: Ex-officer will have to register as sex offender

July 16, 2011

I remember reading in April that a Medford police officer was arrested on sexual abuse charges for his relationship with an underage girl.

The officer quit the force, but I am not aware of the outcome of his criminal case. Any updates?

— Matt D., Medford

The police career of Tyler Terrell Chase, 23, was cut short by some terrible decision-making on his part. Those decisions cost him his career and earned him jail time and forced him to register as a sex offender, according to Jackson County Circuit Court documents.

In April, Chase resigned in lieu of termination by the department after it was reported he engaged in a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old Central Point girl.

The relationship came to Medford police attention after an officer with the Central Point Police Department investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle. The officer found Chase in the car with the girl.

In June, Chase pleaded guilty to one count of contributing to the sexual delinquency of a minor. He was given a 30-day jail sentence and ordered to pay around \$600 in fines.

Chase will now have to register as sex offender, court documents said.

Oregon law allows people found guilty of low-level sex crimes to seek relief from registering as a sex offender if the crime was between consenting individuals and it is the convict's only sex offense.

Chase was hired by the department in 2009 after being appointed a community service officer. During his time as a CSO, which is a civilian position within the agency, he was assigned to North Medford High School.

Send questions to "Since You Asked," Mail Tribune Newsroom, P.O. Box 1108, Medford, OR 97501; by fax to 541-776-4376; or by email to youasked@mailtribune.com.

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