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- MARKETPLACE
- ABOUT

Hillsborough County deputy accused of sexual battery on a 15-year-old girl



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By: Kristal Roberts

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, Fla. - A veteran Hillsborough deputy was taken into custody Friday after an investigation connected him to the sexual battery of a 15-year-old girl, according to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office.

The investigation began after the victim's mother informed the Sheriff's office that 39-year-old William Best was possibly involved in an "improper relationship" with her daughter.

The victim was interviewed and several "investigative initiatives" established probable cause against Best.

The deputy, who worked in traffic enforcement, reportedly became acquainted with the victim through the victim's mother.

The offenses allegedly took place on more than one occasion at multiple locations in southern Hillsborough County.

Deputy William Best has been charged with sexual battery. Copyright 2011 Scripps Media, Inc. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.

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The Sheriff's office says that there is no evidence that Best participated in any of the alleged activities while working and there is no indication that he used his position to intimidate the teen.

Best, who has been with the Sheriff's office since 2001, has been suspended without pay pending termination proceedings.

He was arrested and and charged with one count of Sexual Battery and one count of Lewd and Lascivious Battery.

Best is being held at the Orient Road Jail without bound.

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