

Philly cop admits sexually assaulting girl, 14, and soliciting prostitute in Bensalem

By Laurie Mason Schroeder Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, June 18, 2013 12:00 pm

A former Philadelphia police officer could serve more than four years in a state prison after pleading guilty in Bucks County Court in Doylestown on Monday to sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl.

Anthony Dattilo, 36, a 12-year veteran of Northeast Philadelphia's 2nd District, will be sentenced in about 90 days, following a Megan's Law review. He pleaded guilty before county Judge Jeffrey Finley to aggravated indecent assault, unlawful contact with a minor, promoting the prostitution of a minor and related charges.

"He accepted that what he did was wrong," said Dattilo's defense attorney, Jack McMahon. "He's a good, decent man. This was a nonviolent offense. It's unfortunate. He's accepted responsibility and intends to move forward with his life."

Dattilo was arrested at about 2 a.m. May 2, 2012, after the victim sent a text message to family members saying she was being held at the Lincoln Motel in Bensalem against her will.

The girl's family contacted police, and officers swarmed the motel and began knocking on doors. Dattilo identified himself as a police officer when he answered his door.

The girl was questioned in the hallway. She said she had been visiting her 21-year-old cousin that night and the older girl received a telephone call from Dattilo. Court records say Dattilo had paid the woman for sex in the past, and that night offered her \$100 for intercourse.

The older cousin, who was also arrested, told Dattilo that the 14-year-old was with her, police say. Dattilo offered to pay an additional \$100 for sex with the teen, court records say.

Dattilo of Gillespie Street picked up the girls in their North Philadelphia neighborhood and drove to Bucks County. He had sex with the older cousin while the younger girl was in the same room, then began to touch the younger girl, police say.

In the midst of the sex assault, Bensalem officers knocked on the door.

Dattilo will be a registered sex offender under Megan's Law for at least 10 years. He did not speak during the brief hearing Monday and remains free on \$500,000 bail while awaiting sentencing.

Dattilo was fired from the force shortly after his arrest, Philadelphia police officials confirmed Monday.

The 14-year-old girl's cousin, Theresa Cameron, now 22, will stand trial in September. First Assistant District Attorney Michelle Henry declined to discuss the case Monday.