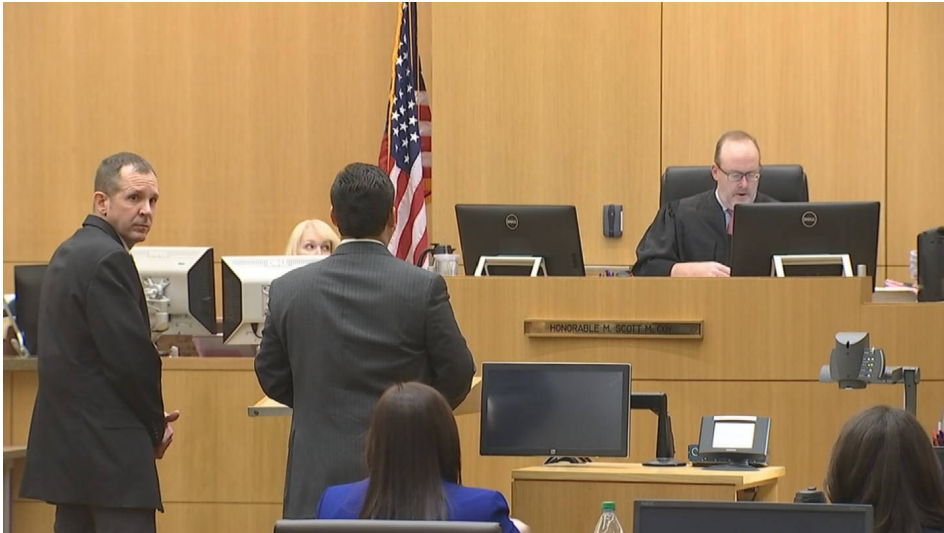


## Ex-officer averts trial, pleads guilty to sex with minors

Saturday, January 30 2016 12:25 AM EST

cbs5az.com

2012 Cop Pedophile Christopher J. Wilson



*Christopher Wilson pleaded guilty Tuesday to two counts of sexual conduct with a minor and one count of attempt to commit sexual conduct with a minor. (Source: CBS 5 News)*

Christopher Wilson pleaded guilty Tuesday to two counts of sexual conduct with a minor and one count of attempt to commit sexual conduct with a minor. (Source: CBS 5 News)

(Source: CBS 5 News)

A former Phoenix police officer stunned a Maricopa County courtroom Tuesday afternoon when, just minutes before the start of his trial on sex crimes, he

entered into a plea agreement.

Christopher J. Wilson was arrested in August 2012 and charged with 10 counts of sexual conduct with a minor. The charges stem from his alleged sexual involvement with two underage teen boys -- one 17, the other 14.

Both victims were in the courtroom, waiting for opening statement and their chance to take to stand to testify against Wilson. But it never got to that. In fact, the jury, which had been impaneled, had not even been sworn in yet.

Instead, Wilson and his attorney, Robert Campos, got up from the defense table and stood before the judge. Wilson pleaded guilty to two counts of sexual conduct with a minor and one count of attempt to commit sexual conduct with a minor.

The agreement orders him to spend 23 years flat time in prison. While he will be credited with the time he has already served -- about three years -- flat time means there will be no opportunity for early release.

"I think sometimes it takes an individual facing the prospect of live jurors to finally see that society is very judgmental about these kinds of charges and are not going to have an open mind in listening to any defense somebody may wish to use at trial," Campos said after Tuesday's proceedings.

The plea agreement comes after Wilson rejected every other agreement offered to him. The agreements prior to this likely would have resulted in less prison time.

Wilson's parents, who live out of state, were in the courtroom for moral support. They were as surprised as everyone else that he changed his plea at the last possible moment.

"We didn't expect him to take a plea at this point," Brian Lewis, Wilson's father, said. "We're happy that he took a plea. We're disappointed in the potential time that he's going to serve. As caring parents, you're always disappointed when a situation like this arises. But you don't stop loving your children. So we still stand by Chris and we still love him."

After the plea was entered, the judge asked Wilson if the facts read out loud in court regarding each count he plead guilty to were correct. At one point, there was a long pause before Wilson answered, and as he replied, "Yes, sir," he was slightly shaking his head back and forth in a "no" fashion.

The victims, now 18 and 21 respectively, had no comment after Tuesday's surprising turn of events.

Prior to his arrest, Wilson was a highly decorated 13-year veteran of the Phoenix Police Department. He was the liaison between the department and the gay and lesbian community.

"It takes a lot of courage for somebody to accept responsibility. It's not easy," Campos said. "My client never denied the charges. He immediately did the right thing and cooperated with the police and admitted his conduct. He just never agreed with the overcharging that occurred, making one mistake into 10 counts and facing the rest of his life in prison."

Wilson is set to be formally sentenced on Feb. 29.

---

*Copyright 2016 KPHO (KPHO Broadcasting Corporation). All rights reserved.*