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## Pemberton Twp. cop charged with sexual assault of juvenile

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Posted: Tuesday, February 28, 2012 2:00 pm | Updated: 4:40 pm, Tue Feb 28, 2012.

By David Levinsky and Danielle Camilli Staff writers |

PEMBERTON TOWNSHIP — A township police officer has been accused of sexually assaulting a juvenile, authorities said Monday.

Jason W. Kreig, 31, of Phillips Avenue, was arrested Friday afternoon and charged with two counts each of aggravated sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child, the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office said.

The assaults occurred last year and between late 2007 and early 2008 while Kreig was off duty, authorities said. They declined to release more details, citing the need to protect the child's identity.

Kreig, a seven-year veteran of the force, has been suspended without pay pending the outcome of the criminal investigation, according to a release distributed by the Police Department.

Kreig's 2010 salary was \$72,142, according to public employment records.

He was placed in Burlington County Jail in Mount Holly on \$400,000 bail, but Judge Jeanne T. Covert reduced it to \$300,000 on Monday afternoon during Kreig's first appearance in Superior Court in Mount Holly.

The bail is still at the top of the guidelines for the charges.

During the hearing, Kreig's attorney, James Gerrow, argued for \$40,000 bail, stating his client was not a flight risk because of his ties to the community and his law enforcement background and military service. Gerrow said that Kreig was not a threat to children and that the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services was involved in the case.

"Forty thousand is more than enough to ensure this defendant doesn't go anywhere," Gerrow said.

Covert was not convinced.

"It can cut both ways. While he has ties to the community, he is someone who has a lot to lose," she said. "He might seek desperate measures."

The judge also ordered Kreig to surrender all firearms. In the event he makes bail, Kreig can have no contact with the victim or any minors.

Kreig's military service was not immediately available Monday.

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**Joann Otting** · Kodak, Tennessee

wow that's crazy..i guess like they say karma is a bitch and the way he treated some people came back around big time to bite him in the butt....but like they say he will get what's comming to him..

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**Sherry N Ed Jankowsky**

In most cases you are innocent until proven guilty. However, when it comes to crimes against CHILDREN or MINORS I believe you need to prove your innocence and its not just a given. If this is true, I have lost even more respect for that department. To not know what your officers are upto leads me to believe youre not watching them on duty either. Moral character on and off duty should be a given. Perhaps the entire command staff needs to be looked at. I am sure there were red flags or clues or behaviour of some type that would have given him away. perhaps there is more to this than meets the eye...

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**Ray McDowell**

That's a tough one. I understand the point but I couldn't disagree more. There is no accusation that should force the accused individual with their limited resources to have to overcome burden of proof against the relatively unlimited resources of government prosecution. If you think political motivation for targeting individuals is not a problem that's just proof that the system works well. False accusations are a reality and the poor and defenseless should never need to overcome such an impossible burden. All accused should get benefit of the doubt because if they truly are guilty govt prosecution should easily erase that doubt during a fair trial.

Reply · 1 · Like · February 29 at 2:36am



**Gerard W Boyle** · Yokosuka-shi, Kanagawa, Japan