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# Pemberton Twp. cop charged with sexual assault of juvenile



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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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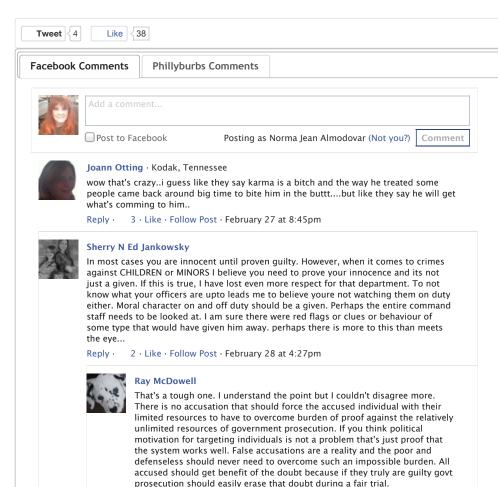
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