

Former Livingston deputy pleads guilty to felony

BY ROBERT STEWART

theadvocate.com

A former Livingston Parish sheriff's deputy was sentenced to a year in prison after pleading guilty Monday to contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile, the state Attorney General's Office said Tuesday.

Clarence "Jeremy" Brister, 38, of Denham Springs, was set for trial but chose to enter a guilty plea to one count of felony contributing to the delinquency of a juvenile, Attorney General's Office spokesman Steven Hartmann said in an email.

Brister was arrested in January 2012 on one count of molestation of a juvenile and three counts of indecent behavior with a juvenile, the Sheriff's Office has said.

He was fired after his arrest.

Brister was accused of molesting a 15-year-old girl, the Sheriff's Office has said.

A grand jury in Livingston Parish indicted Brister in July 2012 on the same counts he was arrested on.

Brister was sentenced Monday to two years in state custody with one year suspended.

He will then serve a year of supervised probation and pay a \$1,500 fine, in addition to registering as a sex offender for the next 15 years.

"The Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office did an excellent job of investigating this case," Hartmann said. "The Attorney General's Office and the victim's family are very satisfied with this conviction."

Brister had been a road deputy with the department for about 18 months when he was arrested and fired, Sheriff Jason Ard has said.

Brister had a clean record with the Sheriff's Office other than the incidents involving the 15-year-old girl, Ard has said. None of the alleged acts took place while Brister was on duty.

Livingston sheriff's deputies investigated the case, but District Attorney Scott Perrilloux of the 21st Judicial District later turned the case over to the Attorney General's Office to avoid any problems with Brister being a witness for the District Attorney's Office in other cases.