

## Former Langlade Co. deputy heads to prison on child sex charge

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**ANTIGO** — A former Langlade County deputy will spend three years in prison for sexually assaulting a teenage girl.

Michael Brayton, 26, of Gleason appeared Friday in Langlade County Circuit Court, where he was sentenced by Marathon County Circuit Judge Mike Moran. Marathon County Deputy District Attorney Theresa Wetzsteon prosecuted the case. Langlade County authorities requested an outside prosecutor and judge handle the case against Brayton to avoid a conflict of interest.

Moran also ordered Brayton to spend seven years on extended supervision after his release from prison. Brayton also will be required to pay restitution to the victim in an amount yet to be determined, according to court records.

Brayton was convicted in January of a single count of second-degree sexual assault of a child; 21 additional felony charges were dismissed as part of a plea agreement, according to court records. The charges were filed July 10, 2012.

The crime took place in 2011, according to court records. The charges were linked to incidents with four girls, who ranged in age from 14 to 18 at the time the complaint was filed, according to court documents.

The 32-page complaint detailed a pattern of behavior with girls from Elcho High School and heavy use of social media, including Facebook and text messaging. Brayton and the girls became friendly and their relationships escalated to trading explicit photographs and several instances of physical contact with one girl, according to the complaint.

Brayton told investigators nothing happened while he was on duty and never involved force or alcohol, according to court documents.

Brayton was a Langlade County Sheriff's deputy from July 14, 2008, until June 11, 2012, police said. Officials have not said whether Brayton resigned voluntarily or was asked to leave the force.

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