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12:55 pm - February 08, 2012 — Updated: 8:52 am - February 09, 2012

Boone cop charged with exploitation of a minor

By **Luke Jennett**
Staff Writer

BOONE — Court documents filed Monday in Boone County indicate that former Boone Police Department officer Rodney Allen Thompson was charged Tuesday with sexual exploitation of a minor, a class C felony, and telephone dissemination of obscene material to a minor second of subsequent offense, a class D felony.

According to Chief Deputy Greg Elsberry, of the Boone County Sheriff's Office, Thompson is not in custody. Elsberry said Thompson's attorney, Steve Nalean, had contacted sheriff's officials and told them Thompson would turn himself in and that he was to be processed and taken over to court.

According to court documents, Thompson was released after an initial appearance Tuesday under supervision by the Iowa Department of Corrections.

The complaint and affidavit in the case indicates that Thompson enticed, coerced, solicited or knowingly permitted a minor to engage in a prohibited sexual act and then knowingly disseminated obscene material through the telephone to a minor.

Search warrants issued in the case that were sealed until January indicate the alleged victim in the case, a minor female, claimed that on Aug. 10, 2011, she received a text message from Thompson at her home that she thought was inappropriate.

The texts continued until Thompson allegedly asked the girl to send him partially nude pictures of herself, which she reportedly did. Thompson responded by sending her a nude picture of himself.

Thompson allegedly continued to solicit more nude photos from the girl, which she provided.

On Aug. 15, 2011, the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation was asked by the Boone Police Department to conduct an investigation into the allegations against Thompson. Thompson was placed on administrative leave and resigned two days later.

According to court documents, Thompson has waived his right to a preliminary hearing in the case. No further court dates have been set.

A class C felony is punishable under Iowa law by up to 10 years in prison. The sentence on a class D felony can be up to five years in prison.

Luke Jennett can be reached at (515) 663-6919

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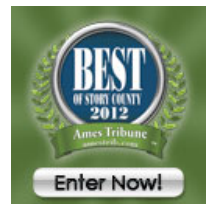
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