

# Volunteer Deputy Arrested for Sexual Assault of Child



**By: KNWA**

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Thomas Shawn, 45, a volunteer reserve deputy with the Crawford County Sheriff's Office, was arrested in Oklahoma early Sunday morning for sexual assault on a juvenile girl.

Van Buren Police were called to Mercy Hospital in Fort Smith at approximately 1:00 Sunday morning to investigate a sexual assault on a juvenile girl. Detectives were able to identify the suspect as Thomas Shawn Nelson, who is an acquaintance of the victim's family.

Detective Jonathan Wear says when police searched Nelson's home, they were able to determine that Nelson was possibly en route to California where he has family.

The Van Buren Police Department notified other police agencies and Nelson was located by an Oklahoma law enforcement agency on Interstate 40 near Oklahoma City.

Nelson is currently being held in the Canadian County Jail.