

## Former police officer sentenced to prison after sending sexual texts to 13-year-old girl

October 14, 2014 8:30 pm

cumberlandlink.com



CARLISLE — A police officer for nearly 20 years was sentenced to county prison Tuesday after pleading guilty to sending sexually explicit text messages to a 13-year-old girl last year.

Daniel M. Lanious, 50, of Carlisle, was sentenced to 12 months in Cumberland County Prison after pleading guilty to misdemeanor corruption of minors on Aug. 27.

He was arrested in April and initially charged with misdemeanor corruption of minors and criminal attempt to corruption of minors.

State Police at Carlisle said on Sept. 17, 2013, that Lanious reportedly sent inappropriate messages to the girl between July and September.

Police said he met the girl while volunteering at the South Middleton Township Fire Company in Boiling Springs, and police believe he began sending her messages after obtaining her cellphone number from her Facebook page.

The girl said the messages quickly became very flirtatious and sexual, with Lanious often stating that he wanted to have sex with her, police said.

The girl's mother discovered a message reading, "I wish you were home. I wish you were on birth control. I have a condom," and responded by text to Lanious that her daughter was only 13, according to court documents.

The affidavit of probable cause states Lanious admitted to sending flirtatious and sexual messages to the girl and admitted that he sent his son to the girl's house to see whether or not her mother planned to report the messages to police, documents state.

Lanious apologized during the proceedings, saying, "I take full responsibility from the onset of this. This will never take place again in my life. It has been an eye-opener."

Lanious said the embarrassment from this situation has kept him from interacting with the public.

"After this all came to light, I felt like I was a prisoner in my own house. I felt like I couldn't go anywhere. I let a lot of people down," he said. "I know that what I did was wrong. I can guarantee that none of this will ever take place again."

His attorney, Steve Rice, asked the court to consider Lanious' career, with seven years as a police officer with the Air Force and 16 years as an officer in Adams County.

Lanious was a patrolman with the Carroll Valley Police Department in Adams County until he resigned in 2013.

“He has had an illustrious career as a law enforcement officer until this situation,” Rice said.

Assistant District Attorney Erin Bloxham said because of his career path, Lanious has to be held accountable for his actions.

“What I heard is that the defendant had a long career as a police officer and served this commonwealth honorably ... that means he should have known better,” she said. “He knew better as a police officer and we should expect better from our officers.”

Judge Albert Masland agreed, sentencing Lanious to a prison term more than Rice’s recommendation for a probationary sentence.

“We need to acknowledge that the fact that he was a police officer cuts both ways,” he said. “You have said he has had a stellar career that should be acknowledged and honored. The commonwealth is suggesting he should have known better. Mr. Lanious, your service may have been commendable, but your conduct in this case deserves more than a probationary sentence.”

In addition to the county prison sentence, Lanious was also ordered to pay costs, a \$500 fine, have no contact with the victim or her family and to undergo a sexual offender’s evaluation and recommended treatment.