

Mount Horeb policeman accused of sexually assaulting child makes court appearance



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A veteran Mount Horeb police lieutenant arrested for the alleged sexual assault of a 14-year-old boy was ordered released on a signature bond Friday after appearing in Dane County Circuit Court.

Dennis P. Jenks, who has been an officer in Mount Horeb since 2000 and was promoted to lieutenant in 2009, had been involved in sexual contact with the boy from September until his arrest, Assistant District Attorney Jessica Swain said Friday at Jenks' court appearance.

"The defendant did admit he had concerns about the victim's age but didn't resolve them," Swain said.

Details about the alleged contacts between Jenks and the boy have not been released. Swain told Court Commissioner Jason Hanson that a criminal complaint would be filed on Monday. But after Hanson granted Jenks a signature bond, he ordered him to return to court on Thursday and said prosecutors would have until then to file the complaint.

Hanson ordered that Jenks, who has been suspended from his job, not be allowed to have any weapons. That condition could be changed if Jenks is allowed back to work while the case is pending, Hanson said.

Jenks appeared in court in a quilted suicide prevention smock because he had made threats to harm himself, Swain said.

Madison police said Thursday that they arrested Jenks on Wednesday night at his home in the 6600 block of Raymond Road. He is tentatively charged with sexual assault of a child.

According to a biography on the Mount Horeb Police Department website, Jenks was born and raised in Waushara County and moved to the Barneveld area after graduating from Fox Valley Technical College. He worked for the Barneveld, Blue Mounds and Dodgeville police departments and the Iowa County Sheriff's Department, all on a part-time basis, before he joined Blue Mounds full time in 1997.

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