

## Ex-police officer, MJC instructor to stand trial on sex charges | Crime | Modesto Bee

By Rosalio Ahumada

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Francisco "Frank" Jose  
Drummond UNKNOWN —  
Modesto Police Department

A former police officer and Modesto Junior College instructor will stand trial, accused of molesting three teenage girls.

A Stanislaus County judge on Wednesday refused to drop one charge involving an alleged sexual assault of a 17-year-old police Explorer about 22 years ago.

But it's uncertain when the trial will start for defendant Francisco "Frank" Jose Drummond. One of his two attorneys will start a murder trial early next week and likely won't be available for Drummond's trial.

Drummond is charged with two felony counts of lewd or lascivious acts with two of the girls, ages 13 and 14, in incidents alleged to have occurred Aug. 9 and 20, 2009. A third count alleges Drummond forced oral copulation on an Explorer in 1991.

The defense attorneys filed a motion asking the court to drop the charge involving the Explorer.

Mark Sullivan, one of Drummond's attorneys, argued Wednesday that the charge is based on an alleged incident that occurred more than two decades ago. He said evidence supporting that charge is weak and is bolstered only when joined with the charges involving the two other girls.

Sullivan argued that including the charge of forced oral copulation in this trial will prevent the jury from fairly considering the evidence in each charge individually.

Deputy District Attorney Annette Rees argued that the three charges are related because they involved similar conduct that escalated to the molestation. The prosecutor said the defendant's conduct included massaging the girls' shoulders and having conversations of a sexual nature with them.

An option for the judge could have been to have a second trial for Drummond, where a jury would separately consider the evidence in the alleged 1991 incident.

But Superior Court Judge Marie Silveira quickly decided to deny the defense motion and order Drummond to face all three charges.

"They'll all be a part of this trial," she said.

Frank Carson, Drummond's other attorney, told the judge he is scheduled to start a murder trial involving three defendants next week. He said a judge in that case will decide today whether to

have one of the defendants stand trial separately, which could affect the start of next week's trial.

The prosecutor has objected to a delay of Drummond's trial.

Silveira said Drummond's trial will remain scheduled to start Sept. 3, but she asked the attorneys to return to court Friday to learn what happened with the trial involving Carson.

Drummond remains free on bail as he awaits trial. He was arrested during a staff meeting Aug. 28, 2009, at the MJC East Campus, where he taught criminal justice courses, police have said.

The defendant resigned from his job as a reserve Ripon police officer just days after police showed up at his Modesto home to investigate allegations of lewd acts with the teenage girls. He previously worked as a police officer in Modesto and Patterson.

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