

Former El Reno Police Chief accused of raping student

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EL RENO, OK — A former El Reno police chief turned himself in to law enforcement last month, accused of having a relationship with a high school student that resulted in charges of second degree rape.

“I can’t even believe it,” Haylie Ritchie, an instructor at Francis Tuttle Technology Center, said. “I can’t imagine it, especially being a former police chief doing that.”

Ritchie teaches summer courses at the Rockwell campus of Francis Tuttle. She says teachers often act like best friends to students, but former El Reno police chief Fred Savage allegedly crossed the line with a 17-year-old high school student, who was in Savage’s criminal justice class.

According to an affidavit that reads in part, “... in early February 2013, she initially texted (Savage) to get information about upcoming homework.”

The affidavit said their texting continued and within a few weeks, the relationship became sexual. She said he was her first sexual experience, and stated it was “awkward.”

She also said they “had sex somewhere between 10-15 times at various locations in Edmond and Oklahoma City.”

“I’d be like, you know, it’s ok if you have questions about class, but don’t be texting me about things that are inappropriate,” Ritchie said.

Mark Myers, spokesperson with the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s Department, said, “The victim in this case had told a friend about the relationship she had. The friend became quite upset and concerned about it.”

One of the state’s definitions of rape is, “Where the victim is at least sixteen (16) years of age and is less than twenty (20) years of age and is a student, or under the legal custody or supervision of any public, or private elementary or secondary school, junior high or high school, or public vocational school, and engages in sexual intercourse with a person who is eighteen (18) years of age or older and is an employee of the same school system.”

“That’s someone definitely knows better than to start an inappropriate relationship with a student,” Myers said.

Francis Tuttle released a statement Monday afternoon, saying, “On April 15, the school district received a complaint against an instructor and administrators immediately began an investigation. At the end of the school day, the instructor was placed on leave. Two days later, with the investigation still on-going, the instructor resigned his position with Francis Tuttle. The matter was turned over to the Oklahoma County Sheriff’s office for further investigation.”

The El Reno police department did not return our call about their former employee.

Savage posted a \$25,000 bond and will have a preliminary hearing June 27th.