

ONLY ON KRON: Sheriff Deputy Charged With Sex Abuse

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sheriff

SAN MATEO (KRON) – A San Mateo County Sheriff deputy is accused of molesting a 17-year-old member of his family for years.

Deputy Galen Underwood was led before the judge wearing a brown jail uniform instead of the sheriff's uniform he normally wears, with his hands shackled to his waist.

His father and stepmother were in the courtroom along with other family member, which could be why he waived his right to have the charges he faces read aloud.

Underwood is accused of seven felonies including lewd and lasciviousness acts on a child by force, lewd and lascivious acts on a child under 14, continuous sexual abuse of a child under 14, sodomy by force, and three counts of sexual penetration. Underwood also faces one misdemeanor count of sexual battery.

Prosecutor Stuart Scott says the alleged abuse of the family member began when she was 11. The suspect is accused of abusing the girl for six years, until she reported it to officials at her school who brought it to the attention of the Santa Clara County Sheriff Department.

The defendant faces 58 years if convicted of the charges, but the assistant district attorney says there could be more charges coming which could get him a life sentence.

Underwood did not enter a plea and his lawyer argued that his bail which was originally set at 2 million dollars should be lowered considering his 10-year career in law enforcement and his previous 13 years of service in the Air force.

Scott says “he has a sworn duty to protect and preserve, and that includes his own family.”

The judge said the defendant being a sworn officer of the law was precisely the reason bail should be kept high.

Deputy Underwood is back in court October 15th.

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