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## ONLY ON WDRB: Former trooper calls relationship with teen a moral mistake

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LOUISVILLE, Ky. (WDRB) -- A moral mistake: that's what a former Kentucky State Trooper calls his relationship with a 15-year-old girl.

His alleged misdeeds include watching mixed martial arts fights on TV and sexual relations on duty. Former Kentucky State Trooper Jerry Clanton talks about his relationship with a 15-year-old girl that he says he thought was 18.

WDRB obtained a 175-page transcript of the Kentucky State Police Trial Board of Jerry Clanton. Last month, the board decided that he will not get his job back.

Clanton, who is married, says, "I made a moral mistake. And, I've gotten right with my family."

"I recognize that it is an embarrassment to the State Police. But I have not compromised myself in the fact that, in my mind, all I was doing was making a moral mistake."

He says, "I would never have gone over there. I would have never spoken to her, never texted her, never anything had I thought she was anything but 18."

On Jan. 3, at the trial board hearing, Capt. Matt Feltner, the KSP Commander of Legal Services, said, "You can't put a 15-year-old girl in a car, drive her up in the middle of nowhere and have sex with her. I mean that doesn't have to be written out somewhere to know it's completely wrong and outside the lines."

Clanton was 33-years-old at the time, and says he met the teen through former State Trooper Stratford Young. Clanton says he would use his police cruiser to shuttle Young to the teen's home, which is about a mile-and-a-half away from Young's house.

Clanton says, "I believe one or two times he was drinking prior. Another time, you know, he was obviously married and he had -- he told me to pick him up. And I don't know if he didn't want his wife to see him drive off or... I'm not sure."

Clanton says Young had a relationship with the teen first, but later he started a relationship with her.

He says they would watch UFC fights on TV at her house last summer while on duty. He outlines four encounters with the girl that include sexual relations while he was in uniform on the trunk of his police cruiser, off the side of a road.

Clanton says, "I didn't intend on having sex with her."

Clanton and Young had been with KSP since 2010 before they were fired in September.

A Brandenburg officer and a Breckinridge County Sheriff's deputy who have resigned are also believed to have had an inappropriate relationship with the same girl. Both have declined to comment.

Investigators say the teen is angry about what happened and says she wants people to go to jail. Her father tells WDRB he's very upset that nothing has been done in the case.

It would be up to a grand jury to decide if the four former officers face criminal charges.

Jefferson County Commonwealth's Attorney Thomas Wine has two of his prosecutors handling the case.

Clanton denied our request for an on-camera interview. Young could not be reached for comment.

No grand jury date has been set.

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