

Ex-deputy charged with sex crime

Spencer accused of raping 5-year-old girl

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Written by
Nick Bechtel
The Marion Star

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MARION — A former Marion law enforcement officer is facing charges of sexual assault on a child.

The Marion County Sheriff’s Office is investigating “a possible rape involving a 5-year-old female” involving former deputy sheriff Randy Spencer. The incident is related to a call received around 11 p.m. April 11 from the 600 block of Meadow Lane.

He was arrested Thursday on a charge of sexual battery.

Dan Tierney, Ohio Attorney General spokesman, said the Marion County Sheriff’s Office requested assistance in the investigation. Chief Deputy Al Hayden said this was because he is a former employee.

Hayden could not recall any issues during Spencer’s work history while on the force in Marion, adding that there was “nothing that would be to this magnitude.”

Spencer was hired by the Marion County Sheriff’s Office in 2007 as a dispatcher. He was laid off in June 2009 and rehired in October 2009 as a deputy sheriff. He was laid off again in December 2011 and took a job with the Delaware County Sheriff’s Office as a corrections officer.

Spencer was placed on paid leave April 12 when the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Marion County Sheriff’s Office officials began investigating charges of sexual assault, according to Delaware County Sheriff’s Office public information officer Tracy Whited. She said Spencer was placed indefinitely on unpaid leave after his arrest May 2.

Whited said Spencer passed a full background check before taking the job.

Spencer is currently being held at the Morrow County Jail.

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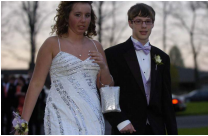
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According to the Marion County Prosecutor's office, Spencer's preliminary hearing will be at 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

Tierney said the investigation is ongoing, and he could not provide additional comment. He encourages additional victims to come forward by calling 855-224-6446.

nbechtel@marionstar.com

740-375-5155

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