

CANON CITY — A former Department of Corrections officer will remain free on bail in connection with a felony sexual assault on a child case after a prosecutor's attempt to get a bail increase failed Tuesday.



Ricardo Fortson

Ricardo Lee Fortson, 41, is charged with sexual assault on a child as a pattern of abuse and sexual assault on a child after a 14-year-old girl reported an alleged rape Aug. 6.

Deputy District Attorney Stacey Turner sought to increase bail to \$50,000 from \$6,000 because Fortson faces more serious charges than initially were anticipated. Turner also indicated Fortson could be a flight risk based on the fact that he was in Florida for two months after his initial police interview, did not show up to work and did not keep in contact with family.

Defense Attorney Alvin Gentry of Colorado Springs said the bail should remain as it is because Fortson, "Is here now."

District Court Judge Patrick Murphy agreed and denied the increase in bail on condition that Fortson surrender his passport and sign a waiver of extradition.

According to an arrest warrant affidavit, the victim underwent an examination with a sex assault nurse examiner. Serological samples taken from the victim's underwear enabled investigators to develop a partial profile which matched the profile supplied by Fortson.

Fortson is slated to return to court for a preliminary hearing Jan. 16.