

Chatham County sheriff's deputy denied bond, DA says 6 more molestation victims found

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By

Chatham County Deputy Sheriff Lt. Richard Adam "Rick" Hall today was a denied bond on a charge of aggravated child molestation stemming from a 2008 allegation.

Chatham County Superior Court Judge Timothy R. Walmsley, who initially denied bond, again rejected the defense's request that Hall, 52, be granted bond to care for medical problems.

The judge cited Hall may be a risk to flee jurisdiction and concerns he intimidated witnesses during the case.

Chief Assistant District Attorney Greg McConnell told Walmsley that investigators have uncovered at least six additional victims since the first bond hearing on Dec. 27. He said prosecutors opposed bond to Hall.

Hall, a 28-year veteran deputy sheriff, was arrested at his Wilmington Island home Dec. 20 on the charge involving a male, now 17, that allegedly occurred in April/May 2008.

Hall has remained in the Chatham County jail since his arrest. He has been placed on administrative leave without pay from his duties with the sheriff's office.

His attorney, Steve Beauvais, waived the charge to Superior Court, avoiding a preliminary hearing in Chatham County Recorder's Court, and asked Walmsley to reconsider his initial denial of a bond.

Beauvais told Walmsley that Hall was not receiving medications for a bad back and had additional medical needs that were not being looked at.

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