

Former Chatham County deputy sheriff pleads not guilty on child molestation charges

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Former Chatham County Deputy Sheriff Lt. Richard Adam “Rick” Hall on Monday pleaded not guilty to a 25-count indictment charging him with child molestation and related crimes.

Hall, seated in a wheelchair, entered his plea through defense attorney Alex Zipperer. Chatham County Superior Court Judge Timothy R. Walmsley set a tentative trial date in January.

Hall, 52, was fired March 7, two days after he was indicted by the Chatham County grand jury. He was arrested Dec. 20 and since has remained in the Chatham County jail without bond.

Hall, a 28-year veteran deputy, was indicted on 15 child molestation charges along with various other sex offenses involving minor-aged boys and five counts of violating his oath as a public officer while employed as a deputy sheriff.

He was arrested at his Wilmington Island home on an aggravated child molestation charge involving a male, now 17, that allegedly occurred in April/May 2008.

Investigators with the sheriff’s and district attorney’s offices found some six other alleged victims during their probe, at least four of whom are reflected in the indictment.

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