

Spearsville chief indicted on child rape

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Spearsville Police Chief Steve E. Bodine, accused of aggravated rape of a child under the age of 13, has been indicted by a Union Parish grand jury.

Bodine, 64, was booked late Monday afternoon into the Union Parish Detention Center. Third Judicial District Court Judge Cynthia Woodard set bond at \$500,000.

Union Parish Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Dusty Gates said the indictment and arrest of Bodine came after a yearlong investigation by sheriff's investigators, Louisiana State Police detectives and the District Attorney's office.

"This investigation took a while because this all occurred before he became chief two years ago," Gates said. "They were also witnesses located out of state that we had to find and interview."

Gates said the investigation started after a family member filed a complaint with the sheriff's office.

"Because it involved a Union Parish law enforcement officer we contacted State Police," he said.

Bodine had not been in law enforcement before qualifying for the position. No one qualified to run against him, Gates said.

The victim was between the ages of 8 to 10 when the alleged incidents occurred, the Gates said.