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OPD officer accused of sexual activity with minor

By [April Warren](#)

Staff writer

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An Ocala police officer was arrested Friday night and charged with two counts of unlawful sexual activity with a minor, according to an agency news release.

Officer Bennie L. Wilson III, 41, was arrested and transported to the Marion County Jail, where his bond is set at \$10,000. Wilson has been placed on unpaid suspension pending an internal investigation, according to the news release.

The allegations came to light on Oct. 28 when Sgt. Brian Young was asked to investigate a criminal complaint against Wilson, OPD said. Young spoke with the 16-year-old victim, who said about a month and a half ago she ran away from home and had engaged in prostitution, the release said.

The girl said that one night she encountered Wilson and began speaking to him and the conversation led to him fondling her, OPD said.

She told Young that two weeks later she met him again and the two engaged in sexual activity. Afterward, Wilson handed her \$20, the release said.

When Wilson arrived at work Friday night to begin a 12-hour shift as part of the Community Policing Bureau, he was interviewed by Young. Wilson admitted that sexual activity between him and the girl did occur and he acknowledged being aware she was under 18, OPD said.

Wilson was charged with unlawful sexual activity with certain minors, which falls under the sexual battery statute in Florida. It is defined as a person 24 years of age or older who engages in sexual activities with an individual 16 or 17 years old.

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