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*Chandler*

GULFPORT -- A Harrison County deputy who once served as deputy warden at the county jail has been accused of sexual battery.

Bobby Joe Chandler, 64, of Gulfport, was arrested Saturday on a charge that alleges sexual involvement with a girl who is a juvenile.

Sheriff Melvin Brisolara confirmed the arrest Monday.

"He was terminated today," Brisolara said.

Chandler was booked at the Hancock County jail and held on a \$100,000 bond.

Booking him at a neighboring jail is standard procedure to ensure his safety, the sheriff said.

Chandler had been promoted to deputy warden at the Harrison County jail Feb. 1, 2008.

Brisolara said Chandler served in that capacity less than a year and was named maintenance manager of buildings used by the sheriff's office, including the jail and work center.

"He didn't work in the enforcement part," Brisolara said, "but under the state Constitution, he was still considered a deputy."

The attorney general's office is investigating the case.

