

## **Edward Bullock, ex-Warren County sheriff, surrenders on child sex charges**

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Former Warren County sheriff Edward Bullock surrendered this morning on child sex charges and his bail was set at \$100,000 during a brief appearance in New Jersey Superior Court in Belvidere.

The 85-year-old Bullock, in a wheelchair and breathing in a labored manner, used headphones to hear during the court proceeding. He did not speak other than to ask for a tissue to clear his throat.

He is charged with three counts each of first-degree aggravated sexual assault and second-degree sexual assault. He allegedly assaulted a boy on dates ranging from December 1986 to January 1988, starting when the boy was 10. The acts are alleged to have taken place while the victim was in Bullock's custody and control as sheriff.

First Assistant Prosecutor Michael McDonald said today that he believed Bullock would be able to make bail. Bullock was being processed last this morning, including fingerprinting and being photographed.

Judge Ann Bartlett described Bullock as "feeble." Bullock had a knee replacement recently, a hip replacement in the past year and has a heart condition, his attorney, Brian White, said.

The judge, pointing to Bullock's age, health and modest financial circumstances, said, "There's simply no reason to believe he is a flight risk."

But in setting bail, she did say these are serious allegations. The standard bail for an aggravated sexual assault charge is \$150,000 to \$300,000; the prosecution asked for \$150,000 while the defense suggested \$75,000.

After court recessed, White said, "Mr. Bullock denies the allegations. These are obviously old allegations. The last 20 plus years he has lived in Ocean County in obscurity and peace."

Bullock "is going to do what he needs to do and fight this case, and trust the legal system to get the right result," White said.

When asked about Bullock's age and health, McDonald said, "We are committed to going forward with this case."

Bullock's surrender comes exactly two weeks after a Warren County grand jury returned a six-count indictment against him.

A hallway in the county courthouse was cleared about 10:15 so Bullock could be brought

into court.

He was appointed sheriff before being elected, and served from 1982 until 1991, when he resigned after he was arrested for trying to curry sexual favors from an undercover police officer posing as a teenage boy.

He pleaded guilty to official misconduct and spent nine months in the Hunterdon County Jail. He soon after moved to Ocean County.

*Express-Times staff writer Matthew Bultman, photographer Bill Adams and archives editor KJ Frantz contributed to this report.*