

Court security officer charged with three counts of statutory rape

therogersvillereview.com

2014 Tennessee

TOMMY CAMPBELL Editor/Publisher | 5 days ago

ROGERSVILLE — A former Court Security Officer at the Hawkins Co. Justice Center was arrested last week on three counts of statutory rape.

Sheriff Ronnie Lawson said that Paul Thomas Morrison III, 22, of 2025 Blair's Gap Road, Kingsport, was processed into the jail on Thursday, Aug. 28, 2014.

The arrests stem from allegations which were relayed to the Sheriff's Office in July of this year, Lawson said in a news release. Morrison was named in an indictment returned Monday, Aug. 25, 2014 by a Hawkins Co. Grand Jury.

The three-count indictment alleges that Morrison had a series of three sexual encounters with a male between the age of 13 and 18 years old, when Morrison was at least four years older than the victim.

According to the presentments, the first incident allegedly occurred in September, 2010, the second in November, 2011, and the third in February, 2014.

Morrison reportedly resigned on or about July 22 after being interviewed by a criminal investigator with the District Attorney's office.

He was arrested Thursday in the parking lot of the Food Lion store in Church Hill. Morrison, who was released from jail on Friday after posting a \$20,000 bond, will make his first court appearance on Oct. 3.

He had been employed as a Court Security Officer for about two years before resigning, Sheriff Lawson said.

The charges are Class E felonies.