

Former Concord University police officer sentenced on sex charge involving juvenile

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A former Concord University police officer was sentenced Tuesday to a term of 10 to 20 years in prison on a single count of sexual abuse by a parent or custodian.

As part of a plea agreement reached with the state, five additional counts were dropped against Randy Keith Cordle, 47, of Athens. Cordle will have to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life, Circuit Court Judge Derek Swope said.

Cordle will be on supervised release for 20 years after he leaves prison, Swope said.

Cordle was arrested in June 2012 and later indicted on one count of third-degree sexual assault and five counts of sexual abuse by a parent, guardian or custodian.

In an earlier interview, Sgt. M.D. Clemons, of the West Virginia State Police Crimes Against Children Unit, said the victim was a family member.

Clemons added that the incidents occurred at Cordle's residence, and no inappropriate behavior was alleged to have occurred at the university.

A criminal complaint filed in Mercer County Magistrate Court stated that the victim advised that she had sexual intercourse and engaged in other sexual acts with Cordle beginning in 2011 when she was 15.

The victim said the last instance of sexual intercourse happened at the Mercer County Airport in May 2012, while the previous incidents occurred at Cordle's residence in the Lashmeet area, the complaint stated. Cordle admitted when Clemons interviewed him to having intercourse with the victim on multiple occasions, according to the criminal complaint.

Clemons said Concord University officials cooperated with her in the investigation.

Cordle no longer works for the campus police. Sentencing was set for April 15