

## Affidavit Details Child Indecency Allegations Against Area Officer

CRAWFORD (October 29, 2014)

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*An affidavit released Wednesday provides some details of the allegations that led to the arrest of a local police officer.*

A Crawford police officer who's charged with indecency with a child by contact fondled the breasts of a girl younger than 17 on several occasions and as recently as September, according to an arrest warrant affidavit released Wednesday.

Texas Rangers arrested Crawford Officer William Byrom, 28, Tuesday.

Byrom was free on \$20,000 bond Wednesday.

According to the affidavit, Byrom touched the victim's breasts on four or five occasions in 2013 both over and under clothing.

Byrom admitted to an investigator last Friday that he placed his hands under the victim's shirt and touched her breasts once in late 2012 or 2013, the affidavit said.

"Byrom could not recall the approximate date—only that it was cold weather," the affidavit said.

The victim underwent a forensic interview on Monday at the Waco Child Advocacy Center, the affidavit said.

Crawford police Chief Clay Bruton said he began an investigation on Oct. 21, after the allegations surfaced, and after that he contacted Rangers for assistance.

"This is something that no chief ever wants to have to handle or deal with. This is something I do not tolerate," Bruton said.

Byrom was placed on administrative leave last Thursday and will remain on paid leave until the City Council meets next week at which time a decision could be made about his continued employment, Bruton said.

News 10 contacted Byrom late Tuesday and he declined to comment.

"I can't make any statements," he said.

"I'm not trying to dodge anything, I just can't say anything per my lawyers, so that's just what I'm going to leave it at and we'll go from there."