

Ex-McKean County sheriff charged for alleged sex with 17-year-old during his tenure

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2015 Cop Pedophile Brad Mason

BRADFORD, Pa. — Brad Mason has been charged with corruption of minors for an alleged months-long sexual relationship with a 17-year-old tenant of a home he owned in Bradford Township — while serving as McKean County sheriff.

The charges were filed Wednesday in District Judge Rich Luther's office in Foster Township. Mason did not return messages left for him seeking comment.

Mason, 52, of 1230 South Ave., is charged with two counts of corruption of minors, firstdegree misdemeanors; and one count of providing alcohol to minors, a summary offense.

According to a press release from Ridgway-based state police, an “unrelated civil dispute involving the victim was brought to the attention of law enforcement. Information obtained during this civil dispute revealed that from 12/06/13 to 5/12/14, (Mason) had a consensual sexual relationship with the 17-year-old victim.”

Police said Mason provided alcohol to the girl during the same time frame.

Mason served in the elected position of McKean County sheriff until July 10, 2014, including during the time frame of the allegations.

The affidavit of probable cause prepared by state police details a relationship involving intercourse and oral sex on a weekly basis at the victim's residence. Mason was her landlord at the time, the records read.

THE VICTIM ALLEGEDLY told police the relationship started in December 2013.

“There were approximately 548 pages of text messages,” state police noted, saying the messages became “personal and suggestive” starting Jan. 3, 2014.

Mason asked the victim via text if she was 18, and she said she was, the probable cause read.

“On Jan. 17, the text messages indicate that they got together and a sex act occurred,” the probable cause read. On Jan. 26, Mason texted the victim, saying he found out she is 17 and “asks the victim to delete all the texts and talks about going to jail for 20 years. From that point on, the sexual text messages stop until the victim turns 18.”

As of June 4, the probable cause read, the messages indicated the two were still seeing each other on a regular basis.

Also during the course of the interviews with police, the victim told police that Mason had given her alcohol “three or four times,” the records indicate.

As of late Wednesday, there had been no date set for when Mason might be arraigned on the charges.

McKean County Commissioner Chairman Joe DeMott had no comment on the charges against Mason, other than to say, “I’m not happy to hear that.”


Mason had served as sheriff since 2006.

When he stepped down last year, Mason declined to be interviewed, but released a statement instead. “I have served McKean County for the past 32 years in law enforcement with unwavering dedication and with dignity and honor.”

Former chief deputy Jim Sharer was appointed interim sheriff after Mason’s resignation. The position will be up for election this year.

Mason began his law enforcement career with the Port Allegany Borough Police Department in 1981. In 1986, he began working for Smethport Borough Police, where he was appointed assistant chief.

In 1988, he was hired by the Bradford Township Police Department. In 2006, he was elected sheriff. He was subsequently appointed warden of the McKean County Jail and given oversight of the McKean County 911 Center and McKean County Emergency Management Agency.

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