

SBI: Sex acts preceded deputy's hiring - Your Daily Journal - yourdailyjournal.com

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2015 Cop Pedophile Dylan Cox

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ROCKINGHAM — Alleged sexual misconduct took place before Dylan Cox was a sworn Richmond County sheriff's deputy, the State Bureau of Investigation confirmed Monday.

Cox, 22, was arrested last Wednesday by the SBI and charged with two counts of taking indecent liberties with a child and four counts of statutory rape or sex offense where the defendant is at least six years older than the victim.

According to Chief Deputy Mark Gullledge, Cox was employed with the sheriff's office from Dec. 1, 2014 until April 20, 2015 and was certified in basic law enforcement training.

Arrest warrants listing the incident dates were still not available in the Clerk of Superior Court's Office on Monday.

Special Agent Shannon O'Toole said Friday that the sheriff's office, learning of the accusations, went to the district attorney's office, which requested the SBI's help. State agents got involved on April 2 of this year.

"None of us are above the law, not even myself," Sheriff James E. Clemmons said on Monday. "We are responsible for our actions and we should be treated as such."

Cox was initially booked into the Richmond County Jail, but was later transferred to the Anson County jail.

Gullledge told the Daily Journal on Friday that it is standard procedure to make arrangements for a transfer when an inmate is a former law enforcement officer in the county, both for the safety of the individual and for the integrity of the sheriff's office, which runs the jail.

Cox was originally held under a \$410,000 secured bond, which was reduced to \$50,000 on Friday, according to jail records. His court date is scheduled for Oct. 5.

"My responsibility is hiring well-qualified individuals for the job," Clemmons said, adding that sometimes there are things that may be in someone's background that are not on record.

"When we found out about his improprieties, he was released from employment," the sheriff said.

“His case is now in the hands of the court.”

All defendants facing criminal charges are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Reach reporter William R. Toler at 910-817-2675 and follow him on Twitter @William_r_Toler.



Cox