

Gene Baska arraigned on sex abuse charges

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Cop Pedophile Gene Baska



COURTNEY VAUGHN - Gene Baska (right) appears in court Monday, March 16 with his attorney, Wayne Mackeson. Baska was arraigned on child sex charges.

Gene Grant Baska, the former Vernonia police sergeant accused of molesting young girls, was arraigned on child sex abuse charges Monday, March 16.

Baska appeared with his attorney, Wayne Mackeson, in Columbia County Circuit Court.

He's being charged with three counts of first-degree sexual abuse and one count of luring a minor.

Baska was indicted Feb. 26 after a grand jury reviewed evidence and testimony alleging he had inappropriate contact with at least three girls. Three victims have come forward with claims of being inappropriately touched or contacted by Baska. At least two of the victims are believed to be related to Baska.

Baska posted bail shortly after his arrest in January. He has since been ordered not to have contact with the alleged victims.

Baska served with the Vernonia Police Department for 13 years, according to the department. The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is investigating the alleged crimes.

Kimberlee Minniweather, whose daughter is Baska's daughter-in-law, said she suspects more victims will come forward.

"I think that we're just touching on an iceberg now," Minniweather said Monday. "I think this is something that's been going on for a while now, but it's been pushed under the carpet because he was a police officer."

Minniweather said Baska and his wife had his grandchildren living with them at the time of Baska's arrest. The children, who were living with their grandparents after the death of their father years ago, have since been removed from the home and placed in foster care, Minniweather said.

Minniweather said her daughter is currently trying to gain custody of the children.

Baska is due back in court May 6 for pre-trial hearing.