



## Ex-Fountain Inn police officer gets probation for contact with 15-year-old girl

**Gabe Cavallaro, The Greenville News** Published 8:44 a.m. ET May 22, 2019 | Updated 2:48 p.m. ET May 22, 2019

A former Fountain Inn Police officer will serve three years of probation after pleading guilty to two misdemeanor charges related to contact he had with a teen girl ([/story/news/crime/2016/08/08/sled-ex-fountain-inn-cop-had-sexual-relations-patrol-car/88411440/](https://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/crime/2016/08/08/sled-ex-fountain-inn-cop-had-sexual-relations-patrol-car/88411440/)) beginning in 2012. The case also has led to a lawsuit against the city of Fountain Inn and the city's police department.

Arrest warrants in 2016 accused Adam Snelgrove of having sexual relations with a 15-year-old girl in a patrol car while he was employed with the Fountain Inn Police Department. The incidents allegedly happened between May and November 2012, according to warrants.

Snelgrove's sentence was finalized last week. He will serve three years of probation after he pleaded guilty to contributing to the delinquency of a minor and misconduct in office. Charges of criminal sexual conduct with a minor and criminal solicitation of a minor, both felonies, were dismissed, according to court records.

Snelgrove, 33, will not have to register as a sex offender, but will give up his ability to serve in law enforcement as part of his guilty plea, according to court records.



**Adam Kyle Snelgrove** (Photo: Greenville County jail)

The Greenville News has attempted to contact Snelgrove for comment through his defense attorney, Paul Landis, and sent messages to email addresses associated with his name.

A lawsuit filed by Snelgrove's alleged victim, identified only as "Jane Doe" in court records, alleges that Fountain Inn and its police department failed to protect the plaintiff, who they "owed a duty of care."

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That case, originally filed in 2017, was restored to the active docket in March after it had been put on hold while the criminal case against Snelgrove ran its course, said [Brooks Derrick, attorney for the plaintiff](https://www.derricklawoffice.com/) (<https://www.derricklawoffice.com/>) in the civil suit. The case is now in the discovery phase and a trial would likely be a year from now, Derrick said.

Fountain Inn city administrator Shawn Bell said the city does not wish to comment on the lawsuit at this time.

The lawsuit alleges that the plaintiff, who was 15 years old at the time, volunteered to assist the Fountain Inn Police Department with its summer youth camp during the spring and summer of 2012, which is when she met Snelgrove. It alleges that Snelgrove sexually assaulted her at Frankie's Fun Park on Woodruff Road in May 2012 during a summer camp function.

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The Fountain Inn Law Enforcement Center on North Main Street in Fountain Inn. (Photo: SCOTT KEELER / Staff)

The suit continues that over the next three years, Snelgrove allegedly sexually assaulted the plaintiff while on duty in his patrol car "on numerous occasions." It alleges that Snelgrove manipulated her into having sex through the power of his position, including using his firearm, coercing her "to skip or leave school in order to sexually assault her" in his patrol car. It states that the plaintiff "was unable to resist the unwanted sexual advances out of fear of retribution."

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The suit alleges that the city and police department were negligent and should have known of their officer's "inappropriate behavior and failed to take action over the years, which allowed him to continue to abuse the plaintiff," who was "severely injured and damaged" as a result.

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