

## Veteran HPD officer charged with felony indecency with child

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### 2016 Cop Pedophile Donald J. Harford

A 53-year-old Houston police officer was arrested in Montgomery County last week and charged with felony indecency.

Court records show the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office filed the charges on March 9 against veteran officer Donald J. Harford.

He was arrested the following day, and his bond was set at \$30,000, according to Lieutenant Brady Fitzgerald, adding that Harford posted bond the same day.

Shanna Redwine, a Montgomery County assistant district attorney, said Harford had been charged with "indecency with a child by contact," a second-degree felony. If convicted of the charge, Harford could face between two and 20 years in prison.

Investigators with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office learned of the alleged abuse after the victim, a teenage girl, told a friend and an adult about it, according to the complaint filed by the district attorney's office.

The victim made claims of being molested two times, according to the complaint, which stated that she later recanted.

Nicole Deborde, Harford's private attorney, said her client was "100 percent innocent," accusing prosecutors of pursuing a case built on circumstantial evidence that she said wouldn't hold up in court, and that the alleged victim had ultimately recanted her claim of being abused.

When interviewed by investigators, Harford denied the allegations of abuse, according to the arrest complaint.

"I'm astounded they elected to file charges," Deborde said.

Harford has worked for the Houston Police Department for 33 years. He was last assigned to the Robbery Division, according to Jodi Silva, a department spokeswoman. Silva said Harford has been relieved of duty since July and remains under internal investigation.

"We don't make comments on the allegations," she said.

Harford's next court appearance is set for March 30, according to an official with the Montgomery County District Clerk's Office.

Houston Police Officers' Union President Ray Hunt declined to comment on the case because the alleged incident did not involve police matters.