

Fired Neoga police officer charged with sexual assault of girl, 16

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2016 Cop Pedophile John Dilger

NEOGA — The Neoga police officer fired this month for allegations of criminal misconduct has been charged with criminal sexual assault and aggravated criminal sexual abuse, according Chad Miller, who will be prosecuting the officer.

As of Friday afternoon, Miller said a warrant had been issued for the arrest of John Dilger, 40, of Neoga, but he had yet to be taken into custody.

Miller said that Dilger allegedly had sexual intercourse with a 16-year-old girl while he was a Neoga officer. He added that, by law, the act is considered rape because minors cannot give consent.

The criminal sexual assault charge is a Class 1 felony that stems from the allegation that Dilger had sex with a minor who was unable to give consent. The sentencing range is four to 15 years without probation.

The aggravated criminal sexual abuse charge is a Class 2 felony that alleges that Dilger is more than five years older than the minor he had sex with. The sentencing range is three to seven years with a chance of probation.

Miller thinks Dilger's position as a city police officer will be an aggravating factor in the case. No hearing dates have been set.

"It's an aggravating factor because he's a person of trust and held a position of authority," Miller said.

Miller, the Jasper County State's Attorney, is prosecuting the case for Cumberland County State's Attorney Jonathan Braden. Miller said because Dilger likely has testified in court for Braden, it would have been a conflict of interest had Braden stayed on as prosecutor.

Cumberland County Circuit Judge Millard Everhart has also recused himself from Dilger's case. When a new judge is chosen and when Dilger is arrested, Miller said a hearing date will be set.

State Police who investigated the accusations against Dilger and Miller said the investigation is nearly finished.

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