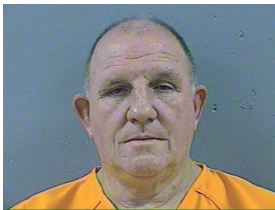


Former Flora officer pleads guilty in sex abuse case

Therese Apel, Clarion Ledger Published 11:00 a.m. CT Feb. 8, 2016 | Updated 8:36 p.m. CT Feb. 8, 2016



(Photo: MCSO)

Former Flora officer and one time chief James Alderman pleaded guilty to three counts of gratification of lust in Madison County Circuit Court Monday.

Madison County District Attorney Michael Guest said Alderman was sentenced to three counts of 15 years to be served concurrently with seven suspended and eight to serve. He will then spend five years on probation.

Alderman, 59, was arrested July 1 (</story/news/2015/07/01/flora-police-officer-charged-with-child-molestation/29582505/>) and charged with two counts of gratification of lust, and faced \$400,000 bond on each count. At that time, authorities would not release the ages of the victims.

According to the affidavit against Alderman, the fondling incidents occurred at his home on Wilder Drive in Flora, where his wife has a daycare.

The indictment against Alderman says that between December 2014 and January 2015, he performed sex acts with his mouth and hands on a child who was 4 at the time, one who was 7 at the time, and one who was 4 in June of 2015.

The indictment ended up discussing three victims, as authorities had predicted there could be more victims and more charges.

"They're very young victims, and the defendant had access to the kids because his wife keeps children in their home and runs an at-home daycare," Guest said at the time.

When the complaints against Alderman were brought to Flora Police Department, they called in the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, Flora Police Chief Dwayne Moak said. MBI made the arrest.

Authorities say there is no reason to think that Alderman's wife knew about the alleged molestation.

Moak said Alderman was only police chief for a short time in Flora, and that it was in the 1990's.

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"It wasn't a long-term assignment or designation," Moak said.

Alderman does not have the possibility of early release or parole. He will also be required to register as a sex offender.



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