Ex-Baltimore County police officer pleads guilty to sexting 16-year-old girl

Dylan Segelbaum Updated 8:52 a.m. ET Jan. 30, 2018

Nicholas Bonsall, 40, of Jackson Township, pleaded guilty on Monday to disseminating explicit sexual materials to a minor. He will serve three to 23 months in York County Prison — plus three years on probation.

A former Baltimore County police officer will serve three to 23 months in York County Prison for sending sexually explicit pictures to a 16-year-old girl.

Nicholas Bonsall, 40, of Jackson Township, who was with the Baltimore County Police Department for at least 15 years, pleaded guilty on Monday to disseminating explicit sexual materials to a minor. He also will spend three years on probation.

When Common Pleas Judge Gregory M. Snyder asked him what he did between June 1, 2016, and April 10, 2017, Bonsall replied, "I sent her nude photos that I found on the internet."

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The girl, who's now 17, sobbed as she gave a statement. She said she was initially very hurt, but came to forgive Bonsall.

"I think that everyone deserves a second chance," she said. "Deep down, I know he is a good man."

Northern York County Regional police started to investigate after receiving a report about a minor who was having "sexual relations" with a 40-year-old man.

Police spoke to the girl, who told them that Bonsall first contacted her through Facebook when she was 15. Later, police said, after she turned 16, they had sex at his home.

Bonsall sent her photos and videos of his genitals — he used the name "Deeznuts1340" — through Snapchat. She sent pictures of herself to him, too. They'd meet up before he went to work and late at night, police said.

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As part of the plea agreement, the commonwealth dropped the charges of unlawful contact with a minor and corruption of minors.

Senior Deputy Prosecutor Kara Bowser, who covered the case for a different attorney, said the sentencing guidelines called for a punishment that ranged from probation to nine to 18 months.

In Pennsylvania, people who are 16 or older can consent to have sex with anyone they choose, as long as that person does not have authority over them.

Dean Reynosa, Bonsall's attorney, declined to be interviewed.

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Bonsall is no longer with Baltimore County police, said Cpl. Shawn Vinson, a spokesman for the department.

Instead of asking for a report date, Bonsall decided to immediately start serving his sentence in York County Prison.

Contact Dylan Segelbaum at 717-771-2102.

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