

Former Garden City police officer facing life sentence

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Doug Heit is facing two life sentences after being sentenced in Finney County District Court for aggravated indecent liberties with a child.

Heit will be eligible for parole after 25 years. If he is released, he will be on lifetime post-release monitoring, said Kurtis Jacobs, court administrator for the 25th Judicial District.

Paperwork was submitted Monday to the Finney County sheriff, who will make arrangements with the Kansas Department of Corrections for transfer to a Kansas Department of Corrections facility.

Heit is a former Garden City police officer. In May, he pleaded not guilty to

six counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child. Heit was arrested Sept. 23, 2018, on two counts of the same charge. The case was passed to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to avoid any conflict of interest.

Heit was a Garden City police officer from July 2003 to March 2017 then transitioned to an evidence technician position in the department. He left the department on Aug. 15, 2018. In October 2018, the Kansas Attorney General's Office filed a complaint accusing Heit of fondling or touching a child younger than 14 on six occasions in August and September of 2018.

Heit received Gold Awards of Valor from the police department and Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police for his role in saving a woman's life when responding to an attempted murder in January 2010.