

Atlantic Beach police officer arrested by state authorities

An Atlantic Beach police officer was arrested by the State Law Enforcement Division Wednesday night.

Akiel McKnight, 28, was charged with misconduct in office, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, sexual exploitation of a minor and criminal solicitation of a minor, according to public records.

The charges stem from McKnight's time with the Pickens Police Department, an agency in South Carolina's Upstate region. The Pickens PD, which had terminated McKnight, requested the investigation, according to the SLED release.



Warrants indicate McKnight sought explicit images and videos from the victim in 2017.

Despite losing his job in Pickens, McKnight found work at other South Carolina police agencies, according to public records and officials.



South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy spokesperson Florence McCants said McKnight has worked for Atlantic Beach Police since Dec. 3.

Academy records show he started his career at the Pickens Police Department in 2016 before leaving for Andrews Police. Records show he worked at Andrews from late June to early October of 2018, and then worked for Georgetown Police for two days, October 15 and 16, before starting his job with Atlantic Beach Police.

Atlantic Beach Police Chief Quentin Robinson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

