

## KCPD officer accused of attacking woman, placed on leave

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### 2015 Cop Domestic Violence James M. Eidson

A Kansas City Police Department officer was suspended without pay after he was charged with domestic assault and tampering with computer data for allegedly attacking a woman he knew and confiscating her smartphone.

The officer had only been with the department for about one year before prosecutors filed the misdemeanor charges.

Platte County prosecutors say the assault happened when Officer James M. Eidson got angry someone was contacting the woman via phone.

Her phone was locked and could only be opened with her thumbprint.

On the morning of April 23, the woman called police and asked them to meet her at a bar.

She claimed that Eidson had assaulted her during the early morning hours. The portion of court records that explains which bar and why she asked officers to meet her there is redacted.

She told police that around 3 a.m. on April 23 she arrived at a home where Eidson was asleep. He heard her phone alert go off. She says then he started fighting with her about who had contacted her.

According to court documents, Eidson grabbed the victim's hand and forced her to unlock her phone using her thumbprint.

Then Eidson locked himself in the bathroom with her phone for about 45 minutes.

He is accused of coming out of the bathroom and again forcing her to use her thumbprint by grabbing the webbing of her hand in between her thumb and index finger.

The victim told police after the second thumbprint he "left her alone for the rest of the night."

After calling police, she went to a hospital. According to court documents, a doctor found swelling to the webbing of her hand between her thumb and index finger and slight bruising under her left eye.

Neighbors who wanted to remain anonymous say the charges are not surprising.

"I did hear some arguing," one neighbor said, "I heard a lot of yelling some nights."

She told KCTV5 News she often saw Eidson wearing his police uniform. She wasn't shocked to see fellow officers at his door.

"I thought he was just waiting on his buddy to go to work," the woman said about uniformed officers at her apartment complex.

Instead, according to redacted court documents, the officers outside Eidson's door were investigating a possible crime. The portion of the court record that shows how the officer and victim knew each other is also blacked out.

A neighbor says she asked the officers what they were investigating.

"He told me, 'I can't comment on that. All I can tell you is there may be some investigators talking to you later,'" the neighbor said.

When officers took Eidson into custody where the assault allegedly occurred, he told officers he did not use force to get the woman to unlock her phone using her thumbprint. He did tell police he asked her to do it twice and he was "upset."

Officers took Eidson into custody on April 23. Prosecutors just filed the charges.

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