

Rockford police officer Nathan Milne fired following judge's order

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2015 Cop Domestic Violence Nathan Milne



Officer Nathan Milne

- ROCKFORD — The Rockford Police Department this week fired an officer who had been accused of domestic violence but was never charged with a crime.

The decision comes after Winnebago County Judge Francis Martinez on June 8 refused to change his mind about an order of protection he granted the ex-wife of former officer Nathan Milne. She had in December accused her ex-husband of slashing her arm with a pocketknife during an argument at her Loves Park home.

Loves Park Police Department detectives investigated, and authorities said there wasn't enough evidence to charge Milne. He denied the allegations and said his ex-wife slashed her own arm in an attempt to frame him as they fought over child visitation and other matters.

As the investigation proceeded, Milne's ex-wife, who the Register Star has not named because she is the suspected victim of domestic violence, successfully obtained an order of protection. It ordered Milne to avoid any unnecessary contact with his ex-wife for two years and to relinquish his firearms to authorities.

The order is in effect until January 2018. It is unclear if Milne is planning an appeal of the ruling. Milne and his lawyer, Tricia Smith, did not immediately respond to email messages requesting comment.

Without a sidearm, Milne could not work as a police officer. Milne was on paid administrative leave since December as he sought an amendment to the judge's firearm order. He was fired this week following Martinez's final decision not to reconsider.

Rockford Police Chief Dan O'Shea confirmed that Milne was terminated by the department but declined to comment on the personnel matter.

The police union has filed a grievance over the termination, said Aurelio DeLaRosa, president of Police Benevolent and Protective Association Unit 6.

"We have a duty to represent our members and so we have filed a grievance to make sure due diligence is done and that the contract is abided by," DeLaRosa said.