

Former reserve officer pleads guilty to child molestation

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A former Hartford reserve police officer, who was also a rescue squad member, recently pleaded guilty to molesting a teenage girl.



Cook

According to a statement from Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams, Robert Price Cook, 44, of Hartford, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor second-degree sex abuse charge in front of Circuit Court Judge P.B. McLaughlin.

Court records indicate Hartford police investigators originally arrested Cook in July 2010 on three felony charges, which included second-degree rape, second-degree sodomy and enticing a child for immoral purposes.

Prosecutors with the Geneva County District Attorney's Office said at the time of Cook's arrest he had been a reserve member of the Hartford Police Department and a member of the Hartford Rescue Squad.

Adams said in the statement that Cook received a one-year suspended sentence on the misdemeanor charge. He was also ordered to pay a fine and court costs.

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Kirke Adams,
Geneva County district attorney

required to register as a convicted sex offender.

"The hard work of Investigator Kristin Atwell made this case strong, along with the cooperation of the victim. Atwell was able to recover DNA and a recorded telephone call between Cook and the girl," Adams said in the statement. "From my meetings with law enforcement and the victim's family, it was clear that Cook being registered as a sex offender was very important."

The victim's mother said her daughter had just turned 15 years old when the offense happened. The victim's mother's name was not published because the *Dothan Eagle* does not release the name of sexual assault victims.

"He should've gone to prison," the woman said. "My daughter wakes up with nightmares while he gets to walk the streets."



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