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Mille Lacs deputy, Onamia school liaison charged with criminal sexual conduct

Jul 23, 2013



Deputy Aaron Joseph Heuer, 29, of Isle, was charged July 23 in Otter Tail County District Court with four counts of first-degree criminal sexual conduct and four counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct.

According to the criminal complaint filed in Otter Tail County District Court, the Otter Tail County Sheriff's Office received information on July 17 regarding a criminal sexual assault involving four different children. The complaint states that the alleged abuse occurred at the Lutheran Island Camp in Henning in Otter Tail County in June while Heuer and the children were fishing from a boat.

Heuer had previously been employed by the camp and was currently working as a volunteer fishing guide, which he has done for the last three years. The complaint states that Heuer had spent two years at the camp as a maintenance and grounds person and three years as a camp counselor.

The four alleged victims told investigators on July 17 that over the course of three or four days Heuer had touched them sexually under their clothes, had oral sexual contact with them, masturbated in front of them, and showed them pornographic videos on his phone.

One said Heuer told them he would push them out of the boat if they did not engage in sexual contact with him.

Another said a similar incident had occurred on a lake in Aitkin County and that Heuer told them not to tell anyone.

According to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, investigators believe Heuer knew all of the victims prior to the incidents.

Heuer has been placed on administrative leave from the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office and currently is in the Otter Tail County Jail.

He appeared before Judge Waldemar Senyk, who signed an order for release under the following conditions:

- Post bond
- Do not leave Minnesota without written court approval
- Keep court/attorney informed of current address
- No alcohol/controlled substance use
- No contact with victim(s)
- Random testing

- Remain law-abiding
- Make all future court appearances
- No contact with persons under age 18
- Make and maintain contact with attorney
- Pay bail with conditions

Heuer is scheduled to appear before Judge Senyk on Aug. 5.

BCA agents are conducting the investigation with the assistance of the Mille Lacs, Otter Tail and Aitkin County sheriff's offices and the Aitkin County Attorney's Office.

Heuer, who has been with the Mille Lacs County Sheriff's Office for six years, has also served as the Onamia school district police liaison. According to Onamia Superintendent John Varner, Heuer was not a district employee but was assigned to the district by the sheriff's office. "As far as we know there have been no incidents involving Heuer here," Varner said. Heuer was reassigned to patrol duty at the end of the 2012-13 school year.

Mille Lacs Health System confirmed on July 23 that Heuer worked for the health system as an on-call EMT. The health system said Heuer was subject to background checks and that hospital staff were not aware of any personal or professional issues.

For more on this story, see the July 31 Messenger or check back to this page.