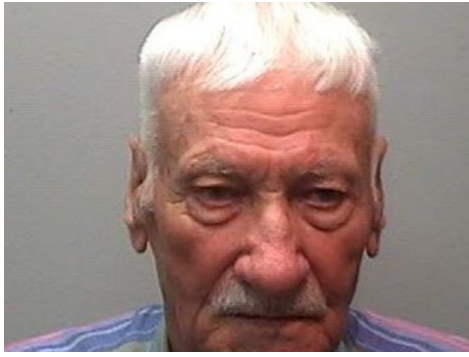


Marshfield man charged in sex assault of child

Liz Welter, News-Herald Media 2:57 p.m. CDT October 23, 2014

Marshfield man charged in sex assault of child, jury trial set for December



(Photo: Welter, Liz)

MARSHFIELD – An 84-year-old Marshfield man was charged in Wood County Circuit Court on Monday with the sexual assault of child.

Ray M. Poeppel, owner of the Park View Pet Motel, was arrested in August following an investigation by the Wood County Sheriff's Department of an allegation that he assaulted a child who was 10 or 11 years old when she worked at his business in 1999.

During the preliminary hearing, Judge Todd Wolf found that there was probable cause that Poeppel assaulted the girl. Poeppel entered a not guilty plea, and a 12-person jury trial was scheduled for Dec. 17.

There is no statute of limitations for child sexual assault cases in Wisconsin.

According to the criminal complaint: A 25-year-old woman told Sheriff's Department Investigator Sgt. Sara McCormick that she worked with Poeppel while she worked at the Pet Motel in August 1999.

On a number of occasions, she was in the office with him, the woman said. Poeppel sat down behind her in the office and "grabbed her stomach to feel her breasts under her shirt and bra," according to the complaint.

In the complaint the woman said, "She often wore sleeveless T-shirts due to the heat and that Poeppel would go through the shirt where her sleeves would have been and rubbed her breasts." Poeppel also would rub his penis on her through their clothing as he sat behind her. She said he did not put his hands down her pants or touch her vaginal area.

If convicted, Poeppel may be sentenced to a prison term of up to 40 years. He remains free on a \$5,000 signature bond.

Reporter Liz Welter can be reached at 715-384-3131. Find her on Twitter as @welter_liz.

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