

Former Sheriff's Deputy Arrested for Internet Stalking of a Child

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SILOAM SPRINGS, AR -- A former Adair County Sheriff's deputy has been arrested for Internet Stalking of a Child after an undercover sting by the Benton County Sheriff's Office Cyber Crimes Division.

Travis Beard, 23, of Siloam Springs faces a felony charge after a 10-day undercover investigation.

Beginning on December 10, Beard exchanged text messages, photos and agreed to meet with a fictional 15-year-old girl multiples times, according to a probable cause report.

The report goes on to state that Beard began texting with whom he thought was a 15-year-old girl on a social media site. The report also states that Beard identified himself as an employee of the Adair County Sheriff's Department.

Investigators say he actually was not working at the Adair County Sheriff's Office at the time, but did used to work in the jail there.

According to the arrest report, Beard agreed to meet the fictional girl on Friday, December 20. Detectives conducted surveillance on Beard as he left his Siloam Springs home to travel to a fictional residence. Surveillance units pulled Beard over in Gentry and arrested him, according to the arrest report.

The report states Beard did admit to detectives that he was texting an underage female, admitted to there being sexual content and sending her a photo of penis.

Beard remains in the Benton County Jail. Investigators are requesting a \$50,000 bond.

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