

UPDATE: Local constable confessed to sex crimes against pre-teen girl at daycare



By **BRETT HAMBRIGHT** | Staff Writer | Posted: Friday, February 7, 2014 10:55 am

A local constable has admitted to sexually assaulting a pre-teen girl at a daycare he and his wife operated in Providence Township.

Frederick W. Townsend, 55, told police that he had sexual contact with the 11-year-old girl “at various times,” according to court documents obtained Friday.

Townsend, longtime constable of Providence Township, is at Lancaster County Prison on \$100,000 bail.

State police Trooper Linda Gerow charged Townsend on Tuesday with six felony sex crimes and a misdemeanor regarding the alleged abuse from August to December 2013.

Townsend was elected in 2008 to a second six-year term as constable.

Aside from that duty, Townsend and his wife operated Busy Hands Daycare at their home on Sawmill Road, according to officials.

The victim and other children apparently were staying there when the alleged abuse happened, an arrest affidavit shows.

Townsend took the victim into a private room during the assaults, typically when his wife was away from the home, the affidavit shows.

“(Townsend) was in a caregiver role over (victim) and other minor children at the times of the sexual contact,” the affidavit states.

Sex abuse is only alleged regarding one child.

Police were notified in December of the suspected abuse. The victim told a counselor with the Lancaster County Children’s Alliance that the abuse happened “on more than one occasion,” according to the affidavit.

After the alleged abuse came to light, Townsend was involuntarily committed to a local hospital Dec. 18 after he made “suicidal references” to his wife, according to the affidavit.

As of Friday, Townsend hadn’t posted bail or hired an attorney in the case.