

## Former Dowagiac reserve officer pleads guilty to sending explicit photos to a minor

DOWAGIAC, Mich.---

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### 2015 Cop pedophile Leroy Cheney

A former Dowagiac reserve police officer has landed in prison after receiving and sending explicit photos with a minor.

Leroy Cheney, 65, pleaded guilty to two counts of using a computer to commit a crime and one count of possession of child sexually abusive material, according to our reporting partner at the Herald Palladium.

On Friday he was sentenced in Cass Circuit Court to two concurrent prison terms of 23 months to seven years. He was given credit for 65 days served.

Cheney must also register as a sex offender.

The victim's family were friends of Cheney. Cheney sent photos to the young victim, and received photos and video from her as well.

"You exploited a 15-year-old girl for your own sexual gratification," Cass County Circuit Judge Michael Dodge said. "She was sending photos to you on a cell phone you provided, and you sent pictures to her. You knew your conduct was wrong, but you continued to engage in it. You also wrote some pretty suggestive letters. It looks like and sounds like predatory behavior.

Cheney apologized for his behavior during the court proceedings.

"I should have been the adult in the situation," he told the court. "I should have turned the pictures over to the police. There was nothing predatory about what I did, but I know it looks like it and sounds like it."

The victims father also got the chance to speak.

"We let this man in our house. We were friends," he said. "He took advantage of our daughter, who was only looking for friendship. My wife caught them alone in his apartment. I think it's wrong for him to do what he did. He shouldn't be doing this to anyone else. I hope you give him the punishment he deserves."