



Hanover County Sheriff's Office
Colonel V. Stuart Cook, Sheriff



News Release

Contact Lt. Doug Goodman (804)-365-6312

November 19, 2004

As a result of a joint investigation with Child Protective Services, Sheriff's Office investigators arrested 61 year old Gary A. Rinehults of Mechanicsville on charges of child molestation. Charges stem from incidents that occurred between September 1999 to date at his home in Mechanicsville. Information was presented to the Sheriff's Office in late October of 2004 which resulted in the initiation of this investigation.

The charges include four felony counts related to sex crimes against a minor. The teenage victim in this case is a close relative of Mr. Rinehults.

"The victim's courage in working with our investigators and those from Child Protective Services will ensure that no other children will be victimized by this perpetrator," said Colonel V. Stuart Cook. "The bravery exhibited by this young victim in cooperating with this investigation is nothing short of awe inspiring."

In cases of child molestation and abuse, the suspect is often related to the victim, and in many cases, the suspect is viewed prior to the arrest as a trusted member of society. This case is no different, and unfortunately, more distressing. Mr. Rinehults served as a Deputy Sheriff with the Hanover County Sheriff's Office from June of 1999 until his resignation in December of 2002.

Prior to his hire, Mr. Rinehults passed a painstaking background investigation to include criminal records checks, past employment reviews, interviews with family and neighbors, and finally a polygraph examination. In addition to passing the stringent background investigation by the Sheriff's Office before his hire in 2002, he also passed muster of other background checks performed by religious institutions and adoption agencies.

Mr. Rinehults remains in the Pamunkey Regional Jail with no bond. The teenage victim is safely in the care of her mother. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call on Lt. Doug Goodman at 365-6819.

Colonel V. Stuart Cook,
Sheriff