

## Ex-Ark. deputy gets 45 months in prostitution case

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HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (AP) — A former Garland County Sheriff's Department deputy has been sentenced to 45 months in prison after pleading guilty to arranging for a 17-year-old girl to cross state lines to engage in prostitution.

Neil Parliment had faced up to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty in July to one felony count of enticement of an individual to travel in interstate commerce for purposes of prostitution. During Monday's sentencing, Parliment broke down in tears when addressing the court.

"I did a terrible thing. I lost the trust of a lot of my family and friends and hurt a lot of people," he said.

Parliment acknowledged in July he made arrangements for a 17-year-old girl to travel from Memphis, Tenn., to Hot Springs to engage in prostitution with men he lined up for her. Parliment also acknowledged he paid the girl to engage in sexual activity with him.

U.S. District Judge Susan O. Hickey had narrowed his range of punishment down to 41 to 51 months based on sentencing guidelines determined by a pre-sentencing report, The Sentinel-Record reported Tuesday (<http://bit.ly/LviZyW>). Assistant U.S. Attorney Kenny Elser asked the judge for a sentence in the upper end of that range.

"If he had been doing his job that would have been the end of that prostitution ring," Elser said.

But Parliment's attorney, Clay Janske, argued for leniency, saying the incident was "an isolated mistake" and that Parliment had done good work for the community as a marine patrol deputy.

"He's guilty of being a dummy," Janske said. "He acted like an idiot that particular day."

In issuing her ruling, Hickey noted Parliment already would receive a "huge reduction" from the maximum sentence of 20 years.

"This is a serious crime and the punishment should reflect that," she said. "This was a child. A 17-year-old child and society is supposed to protect her and law enforcement is supposed to protect her."

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Information from: The Sentinel-Record, <http://www.hotsr.com>