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Thursday, August 4, 2011

# Former Leominster cop gets 2-1/2 years in prison



Surrounded by court officers, former Leominster police officer William R. Coulter is arraigned in Worcester Central District Court in this file photo from 2006. (T&G Photo/PAUL KAPTEYN)

By Gary V. Murray TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF  
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**WORCESTER** — A former Leominster police officer was sentenced to jail today on child sexual assault charges.

William R. Coulter, 56, of 18 Manchester St., Leominster, was sentenced to 2 1/2 years in the House of Correction, with 5 years of probation to begin upon his release, after pleading guilty in Worcester Superior Court to two counts each of unnatural rape of a child and indecent assault and battery on a child and single counts of disseminating obscene matter to a minor, indecent behavior and a morals offense.

The crimes occurred in Leominster on various dates from March 23, 2005, through Dec. 6, 2006, according to court records. The female victim was 10 years old when the sexual assaults began, according to Assistant

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District Attorney Joseph J. Reilly III.

Mr. Coulter left the Leominster Police Department in 2004. His case had been scheduled for trial today.

Mr. Reilly recommended a sentence of 3 to 5 years in state prison with five years of probation to follow. The prosecutor said his sentencing recommendation would have been higher but for the fact that the victim and her mother did not want to see Mr. Coulter incarcerated. He also said the victim did not want to have to testify against Mr. Coulter at trial.

Defense lawyer Michael P. McEvilly recommended a House of Correction sentence and probation for three years for Mr. Coulter.

As conditions of probation, Judge Richard T. Tucker ordered Mr. Coulter to have no contact with the victim and no unsupervised contact with anyone under age 16, to undergo sex offender counseling and a mental health evaluation under the direction of the Probation Department and to submit to GPS monitoring.

Mr. Coulter was given credit for two days he spent in custody before posting the \$10,000 cash bail that secured his release.

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