

Couple charged in sex assault of 12-year-old girl in Fredonia

Written by BILL SCHANEN IV
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Mother of victim set up, watched assault committed by her husband, according to criminal complaint

A 44-year-old Town of Fredonia man has been charged with having sex with a 12-year-old girl, and the man's wife, who is the girl's mother, is accused of setting up and watching the assault, according to criminal complaints filed in Ozaukee County Circuit Court.

The man was charged on Wednesday, June 19, with one count of first-degree sexual assault of a child, a felony punishable by a maximum 40 years in prison and 20 years of extended supervision.

He is being held in the Ozaukee County jail in lieu of \$100,000 bail.

His 36-year-old wife was charged Monday with being party to the crime of first-degree sexual assault of a child, which also carries a maximum 40-year prison sentence, as well as failure to protect a child, a felony punishable by a maximum seven years, six months in prison and five years of extended supervision.

A warrant for her arrest was issued Monday.

Ozaukee Press is not naming the man and woman to protect the identity of the victim.

According to the criminal complaint, the girl told an officer that the man, who authorities said is her stepfather, had sexual intercourse with her at their home on April 1.

The same day her husband was charged with the crime, the woman told sheriff's department detectives that he had been interested in having sex with both her daughters for the last three years.

On April 1, the woman said, her husband repeatedly asked her to allow him to have sex with her 12-year-old daughter.

The woman said she brought her daughter into her and her husband's bedroom, where the man was in bed under the covers, and remained on the bed while her husband assaulted the girl, the complaint states.

Afterward, the woman said, she followed her daughter into the bathroom, where the girl was going to take a shower, according to the complaint.

Lt. Christy Knowles said the sheriff's department was informed about the alleged assault after the victim confided in her older sister and the sister told their biological father, who reported the

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crime.

During a court hearing last week, Judge Paul Malloy ordered the man not to have contact with the girl, his wife or anyone younger than 18 unless supervised if he is able to post bail.

He is scheduled to appear in court for a preliminary hearing on Thursday.