

Juvenile could be tried as adult in off-duty Montgomery County deputy's beating

By Jay R. Jordan, jjordan@hcnonline.com Published 7:17 pm, Monday, February 20, 2017



A 16-year-old juvenile male who is one of three accused in the beating of an off-duty Montgomery County Sheriff's deputy in December could be tried as an adult.

The Montgomery County Attorney's Office filed a notice Thursday, essentially asking County Court-at-Law 1 Judge Dennis Watson to allow the case against the juvenile to be transferred to the District Attorney's Office. County Attorney J D Lambricht said he's confident in the juvenile's chances of being tried as an adult, meaning the teenager could face up to 20 years in prison if convicted as an adult. "If this guy wants to run with the adults," Lambricht said, "he ought to be treated like an adult."

Two males attacked the deputy, whose name has not been released, as he was packing ice into his truck at the Summer Hills Food Mart in the 24200 block of Sorters Road near Porter Dec. 10. The two males allegedly approached the deputy and struck him on his head and jaw, according to a previous Courier article. The two males then continued to assault the deputy in what was described as a robbery attempt. The deputy's wife confronted the men before she and the deputy fired their handguns at the males. The two males got into a truck driven by the third man and took off.

One of the males who attacked the deputy was the juvenile, attorneys believe, who was on probation for an offense in Harris County at the time.

"If everything was exactly the same and the juvenile was say 12 or 13, we probably would take a different approach," Lambricht said. "But here, given all the factors, he and his buddies will all be dealt with the same on the adult side, assuming we prevail at the certification hearing."

Lambright said the teen is accused of recently beating a detention officer while in the juvenile detention facility as well. As for the deputy involved in the December incident, he's racked up more than \$160,000 in medical expenses, Lambright said, and still has procedures to complete for a full recovery. "We always take into account the victim," Lambright said. "Here, his injuries were so severe."

There are three options for prosecuting juveniles in this situation, Lambright said. If adjudicated of the crime as a juvenile, he could spend time in jail until he is 19 or for 20 years old. The third option is for him to be certified into the adult system. Watson will decide on the motion during a certification hearing in April, Lambright said.

Chris Allen, who defends juveniles accused of crimes in Montgomery County, was unable to be reached by press time.