

## MCDA to refer Davenport's child sex assault claims to Houston Police Department

By Catherine Dominguez, cdominguez@hcnonline.com Updated 1:01 pm, Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Photo: Jason Fochtman, Staff Photographer



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Crimes Unit. None of the alleged crimes happened in Montgomery County, according to the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

Last week in posts on another individual's Facebook page, which have since been deleted, a woman came forward accusing Davenport of sexually assaulting her and her sister more than 20 years ago. The girls lived in Kingwood, in Harris County, with their mother, who was married to Marc Davenport at the time. The two eventually divorced.

"Allegations of child sexual abuse against local political advisor Marc Davenport have been reported by local media outlets in the last few days," according to a statement from the DA's office. "In an effort to determine where the alleged incidents occurred, our office conducted an initial inquiry to ensure the complainant's statements are relayed to the proper law enforcement agency in the appropriate jurisdiction. Based on the jurisdictional information obtained at this point, our office contacted Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg to assist in facilitating the Houston Police Department (HPD) Sex Crimes Unit's involvement in this matter.

"We are confident that HPD will take the appropriate steps in Harris County to determine if this case can proceed despite the time that has elapsed."

Davenport, 60, has not been charged or investigated in any related allegation; and as of Monday afternoon, no offense report regarding the allegations had been filed with any law enforcement agency in Harris County. Jurisdiction probably would fall under the Houston Police Department or the Harris County Sheriff's Office, according to law enforcement officials. Davenport, who is now married to Montgomery County Treasurer Stephanie Davenport, maintains his innocence.

"Mr. Davenport denies these allegations and will defend them at the appropriate time, if necessary," said prominent Conroe defense attorney Steve Jackson on Davenport's behalf. Jackson is representing Marc Davenport in this matter as well as his Texas Open Meetings Act case.

Montgomery County Attorney J D Lambright, although not involved in the case, said there are different statutes of limitations on sex crimes against children. "There is no limitation for sexual assault of a child or indecency with a child," Lambright explained. "For sexual performance by a child (or kidnapping or burglary with intent to commit a sexual offense), the limitation period is 20 years from the date the victim turns 18.

"Any other sexual offense felony involving children would have a three-year limitation period unless it is a case involving trafficking or bigamy, which have 10-year limitation periods."

According to the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, a delayed outcry from a victim is not uncommon. "A delayed outcry does not mean that a child is lying," the TCCAA site states. "Most of the time it simply means the child was not ready to tell anyone about the sexual abuse until that day. Research indicates that a large percentage of children do not outcry right away about sexual abuse."