



Man Applies To Join Police Force, Gets Charged As Teen Sex Offender Instead

By Elisabeth Parker

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We've all known or heard about terrifying, abusive, psychopathic people who somehow get themselves into positions of authority, and wonder how on Earth that could have happened. Although our nation's voters couldn't prevent this from happening in Congress last November, but Pennsylvania State Police have just managed to dodge a bullet.

The *Meadville Tribune* reports 29-year-old Adam Joseph White applied as a cadet for the PA State Police training program at Meadville, and then things went dreadfully wrong. Instead of launching a heroic career in public law enforcement, White wound up getting arrested and charged with four counts of illegal contact with a minor, and 10 counts of corruption of minors.

But wait, how did they find out about White's misdeeds? Apparently, the man is foolish as well as evil. For some reason, he *told* them about it, while strapped to a lie detector. PennLive.Com reports that — unlike many police departments — PA State Police have a rigorous application process. This process includes background checks and lie detectors. Although lie detectors aren't perfectly accurate, they do help spot and raise red flags.

The *Meadville Tribune* explained that White admitted that he'd had sexual relations with a minor during his polygraph test:

On Jan. 15, White was at the state police barracks in Vernon Township for a pre-polygraph test examination when he “made statements that he had consensual sexual intercourse and other inappropriate sexual contact with the victim when she was a juvenile,” according to state police at Meadville.

The report doesn't tell us how the topic came up, they just leave it up to our lurid imaginations. But PennLive adds that White's transgressions occurred in 2011, and that the teenage girl with whom he had inappropriate relations is still only 19 years old. The *Meadville Tribune* adds White got his just deserts:

White was taken into custody Thursday and arraigned Thursday night before Magisterial District Judge Rita Marwood. He was placed in the Crawford County jail in lieu of \$25,000 bond.

White's preliminary hearing is scheduled for Jan. 30.

Unfortunately, having repeat sex offenders on our nation's police forces is way more common than you might think. The Nation reports in "The Police Violence We Aren't Talking About" that sexual abuse lags only behind general police brutality for the most-reported form of police misconduct:

It's hard to tell exactly how big the problem is, because few people are collecting data. Researchers have to rely on arrest reports and press accounts, which leave out unreported or unprosecuted cases. But even that limited evidence suggests sexual assault is a significant issue in police forces, as The American Prospect and Truthout have reported. According to the Cato Institute, more than 9 percent of reports of police misconduct in 2010 involved sexual abuse, making it the second-most reported form of misconduct, after the use of excessive force. Comparing that data to FBI crime statistics indicates that "sexual assault rates are significantly higher for police when compared to the general population."

We wish more police departments were as diligent as Pennsylvania's.