



December 19, 2024

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Sexual Assault of a Child Arrest

COPPERAS COVE, TEXAS – On November 7, 2024, the Copperas Cove Police Department was notified of an allegation of an improper relationship between a female student and an educator. The offense was alleged to have occurred in 2021 when the student attended S.C. Lee Junior High School, where the educator was employed at the time.

The department's Criminal Investigations Division immediately began an investigation, which revealed a sexual relationship occurred between the student and the educator in 2021 at his residence in Copperas Cove.

On December 19, 2024, the case was presented to the Coryell County Grand Jury, resulting in the issuance of indictment warrants. The individual was taken into custody without incident at his residence and has been charged with three counts of Sexual Assault of a Child. He is currently awaiting arraignment, scheduled for tomorrow.

Once the arraignment is complete, an update including his name and bond amounts will be provided.

This case remains under investigation by the Criminal Investigations Division. No additional information will be released at this time.

Update 12/20/2024

On December 20, 2024, Lawrence Dale Varela-Halbert was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Bill Price on three counts of Sexual Assault of a Child and received bonds totaling \$150,000. He is currently awaiting transport to the Coryell County Jail.

This case remains under investigation by the Criminal Investigations Division and no additional information will be released at this time.





Lawrence Dale Varela-Halbert

