

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Police Department

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Victim Services Investigation

From the Chief of Police:

On or about June 26, 2014, I was informed of a sexual assault allegation against the Casper Police Department's Victim Services Coordinator, Jim Holscher. I immediately requested the Natrona County Sheriff's Office to investigate the claim. The NCSO promptly initiated their investigation. As soon as substantiating and corroborating evidence emerged from the investigation of Mr. Holscher's alleged unethical, immoral, and potentially criminal improprieties and conduct, I initiated immediate termination proceedings. Mr. Holscher resigned his position on July 24, 2014, prior to conclusion of those proceedings. On November 21, 2014, an arrest warrant was issued for Mr. Holscher's arrest on charges of 2nd Degree Sexual Assault, Wy Statute §6-2-303(a)(vi), and Abuse/Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult, Wy Statute §6-2-507(a)(c) and (d). Mr. Holscher was subsequently arrested.

The conduct and actions described in the allegations against Mr. Holscher are beyond disgraceful to the law enforcement and victim services professionals employed by the Casper Police Department. Members of the Casper Police Department are dedicated in their duty to protect and defend the citizens of this community. They work tirelessly around the clock, every day of the year to diligently pursue and bring to justice those who vilely prey on others. We are deeply saddened, angered, and wounded to learn of these allegations against one within our own ranks. In light of this incident, I have initiated an internal review of the Department's hiring and subsequent screening processes for non-sworn employees, as well as an assessment of the adequacy of the precautionary procedures in place to protect the integrity of the Department's workforce and its services to the public.

Moving forward, the Department began an exhaustive nationwide search for a new Victim Services Coordinator. I am proud to announce that the Casper Police Department has chosen Leslie Fritzler as our new Victim Services Coordinator. Leslie retired with 25 years of service in the Wyoming Department of Corrections, most recently as the District Supervisor for Casper Adult Probation and Parole. Leslie has extensive community justice involvement in Natrona County, having served on the Natrona County Youth Diversion Committee, Natrona County Domestic Violence Task Force, Natrona County Sex Offender Intervention Team, and the Natrona County Child Protection Team, to name a few. She has also served as a member of the CASA of Natrona County Board of Directors since 2010, formerly serving as the Vice President of the Board. We are honored and privileged to have Leslie join our Department and lead our Victim Services division.

As Chief of Police, I am invested in ensuring the Casper Police Department's officers and employees provide a caring and compassionate response to the victims of crime and tragedy in our community. Leslie is the right person at the right time to help the Department heal and move forward. Together we will continue to remain committed to the community we serve and be vigilant against the victimization of our citizens.