



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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South Dakota Department of Corrections News

DOC Fired Guard For Improper Contact With Juvenile March 9, 2000

(Pierre) – A former juvenile corrections officer was indicted Thursday by a Davison County grand jury on a charge of statutory rape. He no longer worked for the state Department of Corrections at the time of the alleged incident.

Allen Burns was fired on Feb. 18 from his job at the State Training School at Plankinton, after he sent a letter to a 15-year-old girl at a Mount Vernon foster home.

The girl previously had been in state custody at Plankinton. Contact with former juvenile inmates is prohibited under DOC ethics policies. DOC officials notified the state Division of Criminal Investigation about Burns' letter to the girl.

One week after Burns was fired, the girl ran away from the foster home on Feb. 25. Interviews by the Division of Criminal Investigation determined that they spent time together during her escape. Burns subsequently was arrested for statutory rape.

Interviews by DCI and DOC agents have found no evidence of criminal activity by Burns while employed at the State Training School. The investigation is continuing. State background checks prior to Burns' employment found no previous criminal record.