

**Court Dismisses Rape Case Lawsuit Against Jackson Co Sheriff
(KAIR)--No viable constitutional claims alleged.**

That's the reason given by a federal judge who granted Jackson County Sheriff Tim Morse's motion for dismissal of a lawsuit filed against him.

The lawsuit, filed in October 2016 by former Sheriff's Detective Al Dunn, claims Dunn was terminated because he refused to end an investigation focused on sex crimes involving 22-year-old Holton resident Jacob Ewing.

Official court documents state Dunn complained his civil rights were violated under the first amendment (speech and association) and 14th amendment (procedural due process) when Morse allegedly terminated him for reasons related to the upcoming election.

Dunn said when he began investigating Ewing for sex related crimes, because of his "speech related to the investigations" family members and friends of Ewing began complaining to Morse and used the upcoming election to influence Morse to stop the investigation.

Dunn said Morse yielded to the pressure and then stopped Dunn from investigating. The documents go on to say, as a result of Dunn's failure to comply with Morse, he was terminated July 12, 2016 for insubordination.

The court, however, said it was Dunn's sole burden to prove Morse had violated his constitutional rights. Ultimately, the court ruled he failed to do so, and the lawsuit was officially dismissed March 31.

In response to the lawsuit dismissal Morse had this to say:

"I stand by my original statements, and while the court's decision is of no surprise to me, I am thankful for their wisdom in this matter. I am very grateful for the support from the public, my peers and family during this ordeal. It continues to be my goal to provide this community with a top of the line law enforcement agency with the top of the line personnel. Every day I am humbled and grateful to be able to serve what I believe is the greatest county in Kansas."