

Dartmouth Police Officer arrested for alleged rape of a child by force

A 37-year-old Dartmouth Police officer was arrested yesterday afternoon on charges related to an alleged rape of a child and alleged indecent assault of another child.

Shawn Souza, of Dartmouth, was arrested by a Massachusetts State Trooper assigned to the Bristol County District Attorney's office yesterday at the Dartmouth Police Station. He is charged with rape of a child by force, rape of a child-aggravated by age difference and two counts of indecent assault and battery on a person under 14 years old by a mandated reporter. All incidents are alleged to have occurred in Dartmouth.

The defendant was held overnight and arraigned in New Bedford District Court late this morning. After his arraignment, he was ordered held without bail pending the results of a dangerousness hearing. The dangerousness hearing is scheduled to occur on Monday morning.

The arrest came as a result of an investigation conducted by the Bristol County District Attorney's Special Victims Unit. After receiving a 51A report by the Department of Children and Families, Dartmouth Police officials immediately reached out the District Attorney's Special Victims Unit and requested that our office lead the investigation.

Due to the sensitive nature of the case and the need to protect the identity of the alleged victims, the court this morning ordered all reports associated with the case impounded. Therefore no further information about the facts of the case can be disseminated at this time.