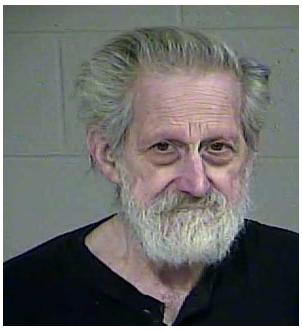
A 79-year-old Clatskanie Man is behind bars after an investigation stemming from a referral from a school resource officer from a high school outside of Columbia County.
Karl Cline is charged with two counts of Sodomy First Degree, seven counts of Sexual Abuse First Degree and one count of Attempted Sexual Abuse First Degree after indictments on those charges by the Columbia County grand jury. Two victims testified before the grand jury on Thursday, June 23.
The investigation began with our investigator receiving a referral from a school police resource officer from a school district in Clackamas County, advising that a female student had disclosed the abuse from 2010. The investigation was submitted to the grand jury, which produced the indictment on the mentioned charges.
Cline was contacted at his residence Wednesday June 29 and taken into custody without incident. Additional investigation at the residence could result in additional criminal charges.
Details of the abuse were initially delayed in coming, with the first report to Oregon DHS in 2010 when the disclosing victim living in Clatskanie at the time (she was 12 years old at the time).
Cline had reportedly exposed himself to the victim, and a forensic interview was conducted in 2010. Not enough information was developed to produce criminal charges at that time.
Last October, a school police resource officer had learned of a more detailed disclosure from one of the victims who is now six years older. CCSO investigators opened a new case and investigators conducted a a child forensic interview in February. In March, Kline met with investigators, but was not arrested at that time. Last week, both victims appeared before the Columbia County Grand Jury, which indicted Cline on the mentioned counts. Yesterday, the detective investigating the case went to Cline's residence in the 19000 block of Shepard Rd. in the Clatskanie area and arrested Cline without incident.
Cline is in jail with a bail amount of $108,000.
Anyone having any information about this case or this suspect is invited to call our citizen report line at (503) 366-4698.



Karl Cline