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No charges for former Havana teacher in case involving student

By Sean Rossman, Democrat staff writer; 12:10 a.m. EST January 25, 2014

A former Havana Middle School teacher will not be charged in a case where she was accused of displaying inappropriate behavior toward a student.

The state attorney's office decided Thursday they would not charge the teacher, who was suspended with pay in May, when allegations arose.

The State Attorney's Office for the second judicial circuit chose not to move forward with the case due to conflicting reports of what happened between the teacher and student.

"There were just a lot of conflicts sort of internal and external with what we received," said Assistant State Attorney Stefan Grow.

The state could not meet the standards to charge the teacher due to the outcome of the investigation, Grow said.

The woman was never arrested.

Tim Jansen, the teacher's attorney, seconded the state attorney's reasons, also calling the student's story "conflicting." Evidence and witness statements showed that the child was not credible, he added.

The girl told Gadsden County Sheriff's deputies the teacher took her and other girls on trips out of town and paid for some of their school trips, according to court documents.

The girl also told authorities the teacher had at one point touched her, making her feel "awkward."

The two were also found to have sent hundreds of text messages to one another. But Jansen said there was never anything inappropriate about the texts.

"The texts that they saw, none of them themselves were inappropriate," Jansen said. "We're happy that the investigation verified that the teacher did nothing wrong."

Jansen said the woman now teaches in another county.

Calls to the Gadsden County School District and Tallahassee attorney Benjamin Crump, who represented the girl and her family at the outset of the allegations, were not returned Friday.

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