

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

June 26, 2009

## **Text Messaging Arrest**

Sheriff Jimmy Harris states as follows:

In August of 2008, School Resource Officer Deputy Paul Bell received notice from a school official that a 15-year-old female student had been receiving sexually explicit text messages. The girl was reportedly texting in class when her phone was confiscated by a teacher. The phone was turned over to an assistant principal and Deputy Bell was contacted.

The case was assigned to Mary Waters. After a 9-month investigation into the matter (during which time phone records were subpoenaed and thoroughly examined), it was discovered that the girl had received over 1,600 text messages during a 30-day period from Garry Don Galloway, 40, of Rainsville. Galloway was reportedly a friend of the girl's family.

27 warrants for Harassing Communications and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor were obtained, and Galloway was arrested on Wednesday June 24. He was released on June 25 after posting \$15,000 bond.

Sheriff Harris said, "We continue to encourage parents to monitor their children's cell phone and computer use. You just never know when someone might be inappropriately contacting them. As much as you hate to consider it, it could be someone you know. There is no reason why we shouldn't stay informed about who our kids are talking to and what's going on in their lives."

