

'Family friend' arraigned on 23 counts of alleged child molesting

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A Scottsburg man described as a family friend has now been charged with 23 counts of molesting the child for whom he had baby-sat since the youngster was seven or eight years old.

Steven Todd Minton, 38, entered a not guilty plea during an initial hearing on July 1 to the list of Class A and Class C felonies filed against him in Scott Circuit Court on June 29.

Minton is accused of having fondled the child and forcing the youngster into sexual acts against her will.

According to the probable cause affidavit, the abuse occurred between 2004 and 2008, starting when the child and her family lived in Tennessee.

When interviewed by Det. Rick Barrett of the Sheriff's Department in late March, Minton denied any wrong-doing. The man said he had watched the child many times when her parents were gone and had slept in bed with her 25 times or more but had never touched her inappropriately.

The suspect has been served with a non-contact order to keep him away from the child and her family if he is released prior to his jury trial, which has been set for October 1.

The case has been assigned to a public defender.

Minton's bail was set at \$100,000 corporate surety or full cash.