

Former teacher takes plea in online exploitation case

By Rick Charmoli Cadillac News Oct 10, 2025

LAKE CITY — A former special education teacher who previously worked for both Big Rapids Public Schools and Lake City Public Schools has pleaded no contest to a felony charge connected to an online sting operation targeting alleged child predators.

Mark Anthony Robertson, 59, of Lake City, entered a no contest plea Monday in Missaukee County's 28th Circuit Court to one count of **accosting children for immoral purposes** for his connection with an incident that occurred June 1, 2024, in Lake Township.

While a no contest plea is not an admission of guilt, it is treated as such during sentencing and allows the court to determine guilt based on the police report. The charge carries a potential penalty of up to four years in prison and/or a \$4,000 fine. Robertson will also be required to register as a **Tier II sex offender**. His bond was continued.

As part of a plea agreement, one additional count of accosting children for immoral purposes and two counts of using a computer to commit a crime will be dismissed at sentencing.

Missaukee County Prosecutor David Den Houten said Robertson's conviction stems from contact he made online with individuals posing as minors.

"A third-party organization that attempts to catch juvenile predators posed as underage decoys online, and Mark Robertson was alleged to have made contact with several of these decoys from his home in Lake City," Den Houten said. "One of the decoys presented herself as a 13-year-old female, and the defendant was alleged to have communicated on social media with that decoy in conversations/texts of a sexual nature, attempted to meet, and requested that the decoy send him nude photos of herself."

Den Houten said this conduct formed the basis of the plea and that Robertson is no longer employed with Big Rapids Public Schools.

"This plea will require SORA registration for 25 years and puts others on notice so as to protect the community," Den Houten said.

Sentencing is expected to take place within four to five weeks. **11/14/2025 @9:30AM**