



**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

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Government and Media Relations

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Olympia, WA – The Washington State Patrol (WSP) announced today that an arrest has been made of Superior Court Judge Scott D. Gallina in Asotin County for criminal sexual misconduct.

At the request of the Asotin County Prosecutor, the case and subsequent prosecution will be led by attorneys from the Washington State Attorney General’s office.

The Washington State Patrol is occasionally asked to act in an investigatory or review capacity in cases involving public officials accused of misconduct. The Asotin County Sheriff’s office made the official request for the Patrol’s involvement on March 29, 2019.

WSP Chief John Batiste accepted the request. “From time to time, law enforcement agencies across the state request that we take specific roles in an investigation so there can be no question of the transparency, fairness, and thoroughness of the process,” said Batiste. The Chief added, “We take this responsibility quite seriously and I appreciate the hard work done by the WSP personnel involved as well as the professionalism and cooperation provided by the other agencies involved.”

Lieutenant Randy Hullinger of the WSP Criminal Investigation Division encourages anyone with information about the case or potential victims to reach out to investigators.

“We encourage anyone with information about this case to come forward,” noted Hullinger. “Victims of sexual abuse are often afraid to tell anyone, especially when the accused abuser has a position of power. Victims can sometimes think they themselves did something wrong or they may get in trouble or be embarrassed by revealing what has happened to them. Our detectives understand those concerns and work hard to respect the privacy rights of possible victims and to understand the emotional toll that situations like this bring. Most importantly, in all harmful situations, we work hard to make sure that the abuse stops and those who harm others face appropriate consequences.”

The investigation continues and anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Greg Tri or Detective Scott Neustel at 509-249-6743.

All media inquiries should be directed to Ms. Brionna Aho of the Washington State Attorney General’s office at 360-753-2727 or [Brionna.aho@atg.wa.gov](mailto:Brionna.aho@atg.wa.gov)

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