

# Murder solicitation added to charges against Walls

New charges against a former Lonoke County Boy Scout leader, including solicitation to commit murder, have led to the levying of a million-dollar cash bond against Charles A. Walls, III, of Lonoke. And the number of victims may have increased to four.

Special Prosecuting Attorney Betty Dickey filed the new charges against Walls, with amendments to the original two charges, in Lonoke County Circuit Court Wednesday. Two counts of violation of a minor in the first degree, two additional counts of rape, and two counts of solicitation to commit murder in the first degree have been added to the original two charges of rape.

Dickey said she was uncertain how much of the information forming the basis of the charges had been reviewed by Lonoke County Prosecuting Attorney Larry Cook prior to his request for disqualification. She was appointed special prosecutor by Circuit/Chancery Judge Lance Hanshaw, to replace Cook.

Walls was taken into custody Wednesday and held in Pulaski County Jail in lieu of bond. He was

transferred to Lonoke County Jail Thursday.

Terms of the bond call for the amount to be secured "by deposit of the full amount in cash, or by property or by obligation of qualified securities." Bond in the first two charges, filed Oct. 6, had been set at \$100,000, which Walls posted.

The charges of solicitation to commit murder allege that on or

about December 1992 through January 1997 Walls sought someone to murder Cledis and Doug Hogan.

In August 1993, the Hogans filed a suit against Walls in Pulaski County Circuit Court. In that suit, the Hogans alleged that during a camping trip in December 1992, Walls had offered Doug Hogan, then 16, alcohol; had tried to remove the boy's clothing; and then requested certain sexual acts.

Court documents from the 1993 complaint included a letter allegedly written by Walls admitting the incident and stating his intention to resign his Boy Scout position.

The two counts of rape allege the incidents occurred on or about 1991 through July 4, 1993 and between March 22, 1992 and Feb. 23, 1995.

Amendments to the original rape charges changed the dates of the alleged violations in the first count from "3/22/92 to 09/01/92" to "1991 through 07/04/93," and in the second count from "03/22/92 through 09/01/92" to "03/22/92 through 02/23/95."

All the rape charges claim Walls



CHARLES A. WALLS III

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## Walls

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engaged in sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity with individuals who were less than 14 years old. Victims designated in the first counts as John Doe #1, John Doe #2 now include John Doe #3 and John Doe #4.

The counts of violation of a minor in the first degree allege the sexual intercourse or deviate sexual activity was with individuals, between 13 and 18 years old, with whom Walls was in a position of trust or authority. Victims were listed as John Doe #1 and John Doe #3.

Walls was first held in Pulaski County Jail because of overcrowding in Lonoke County Jail. He was transferred to Lonoke after the U.S. Border Patrol moved several illegal immigrants to another location.

Approval to bring Walls to Lonoke County Jail was granted by Circuit/Chancery Judge Lance Hanshaw. Permission was sought because the first condition of Walls' Oct. 6 bond was to stay out of the City of Lonoke.

Cash bond requires the full bond amount be posted, rather than the 10 percent usually called for in such cases.

In his request for disqualification, Cook cited the possibility of the "appearance of conflict because the prosecuting attorney and his staff have known the defendant's father and have appeared in his court when he was the circuit/chancery judge in this district." He was referring to Charles A. "Jack" Walls, Jr. Walls was appointed by then-Gov. Jim Guy Tucker after the judge's position was created.

Staff writer Mark Buffalo contributed to this article.