



DAVID J. THOMAS
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Jefferson and Gilpin Counties

For Immediate Release – September 23, 2004

Contact: Pam Russell
Public Information
303-271-6905

RE: Police Officer Charged with Sexual Assault and Official
Misconduct

The Jefferson County District Attorney's Office today charged Derek Charles Smotherman, DOB: 6-30-71, of Thornton, with one count of sexual assault (a class four felony) and two counts of official misconduct (each, class two misdemeanors). Smotherman is an Arvada Police Officer and has been assigned to the West Metro Drug Task Force since 2000 as an undercover narcotics officer. He has been on administrative leave with pay since August 30, 2004.

The Wheat Ridge Police Department conducted the investigation and booked and released Smotherman today. He will be issued a felony summons by the Courts at the request of the District Attorney's Office. His first appearance date has not been set.

Due to the undercover nature of Smotherman's most recent assignment, a photograph of him will not be made available at this time. Release of a photo could potentially put other undercover officers with whom he worked in physical danger.

A class four felony sexual assault carries with it a potential 2-6 years to life in prison and a class two misdemeanor carries up to 18 months in the county jail.

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