



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: March 23, 2026, around 4:54 p.m.
Incident: 2026-397479
Location: 3200 East Shea Boulevard
Victim: Adult female
Suspect: Steven Charles Mitten, 65-years-old, deceased

Sexual Abuse of Juvenile Investigation

On March 23, 2026, at around 4:54 p.m., officers responded to a call for service regarding the reported sexual abuse of a juvenile. Upon arrival, officers contacted an adult female who disclosed that when she was 16 years old, she had a sexual relationship with a staff member from Paradise Valley Unified School District that lasted approximately three years.

This case was immediately assigned to a detective with the Crimes Against Children Unit (CACU), who worked diligently to investigate the allegations. Through their thorough and persistent efforts, detectives were able to establish probable cause for the arrest of 65-year-old Steven Charles Mitten.

On March 25, 2026, at around 4:29 p.m., detectives with the Fugitive Apprehension and Investigations Detail (FAID) located Mitten in his vehicle. Detectives used a grappler to stop Mitten's vehicle and attempted to take him into custody. Mitten refused commands and was armed with a firearm. During the encounter, he ultimately turned the weapon on himself. Once it was safe to do so, detectives, along with the Special Assignments Unit (SAU), approached the vehicle and removed him. He was transported to a nearby hospital by the Phoenix Fire Department with a self-inflicted gunshot wound, and he later died from his injuries.

Night detectives responded to assume the investigation and continued processing the scene. The Phoenix Police Department has been working closely with the Paradise Valley Unified School District, and we appreciate their cooperation and commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of their students.

This case reflects the unwavering dedication of our detectives, who work tirelessly on behalf of survivors, especially in cases involving crimes against children. We recognize the lasting impact these incidents have on survivors and their families, and we remain committed to seeking justice while handling these sensitive investigations with care and professionalism. Additional details related to this incident remain part of the ongoing investigation.

Sergeant Lorraine Fernandez
Public Affairs Bureau

