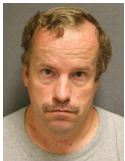


By ROBERT PIERCE

• Leader & Times

Cases against a Liberal couple facing alleged sexual abuse charges against a child under the age of 14 were continued Thursday.



An arraignment for Billy Brown and a preliminary hearing for Nichole Volden, aka Nichole Brown, were both scheduled to take place starting at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in Seward County District Court.

Around 2 p.m., though, Megan McGuiness of the county attorney's office arrived in the courtroom to inform witnesses, the public and the media that the cases had been continued.

McGuiness said Volden's preliminary hearing, which has now been scheduled for 9 a.m. on Jan. 8, 2014, is being sent to another judge.

Brown's arraignment has now been scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Dec. 20, and McGuiness said

motions made by both the prosecution and defense will be considered by the judge in the case.

In September, Brown was bound over on one count of sexual exploitation of a child under 14. That case is now awaiting arraignment.

A second case against Brown involves five counts of aggravated indecent liberties with a child, one count of indecent solicitation of a child, one count of aggravated criminal sodomy, one count of lewd and lascivious behavior and two counts of aggravated intimidation of a victim or witness.



Brown had his first appearance in that case on Sept. 25, and his next court appearance is set for 8:30 a.m. Nov. 18.

Volden was arrested on Sept. 21 and faces similar alleged charges, according to Seward County Attorney Don Scott.

“She has been charged with four counts of sexual exploitation of a child under 14, three counts of aggravated endangerment of a child and two counts of lewd and lascivious behavior,” he said.