

# Spring Hill man sues authorities over child abuse case

**BY MICHAEL KRUSE**  
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After he got out of the Hernando County Jail, after the State Attorney's Office stopped the criminal case against him that said he had molested his daughter, and after the state Department of Children and Families dropped its custody case, too,

Ron Shelton said he was going to sue everybody.

Shelton, 62, an accountant who lives in Spring Hill, recently filed a civil suit in federal court in Tampa. The long list of defendants includes DCF, the State Attorney's Office of the 5th Judicial Circuit, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office, and the

employees of those agencies who had a hand in the 13-month criminal case against him.

He's seeking \$30 million.

Shelton was arrested in August 2005. He was kept in jail with no chance for bail until June 2006. The criminal case wasn't dropped until September.

Due to the ordeal, and because

of the agencies' shoddy investigation, according to Shelton's suit, he is now a broke and broken man.

He's still trying in Hernando courts to get back custody of his daughter. The biggest problem now, said Mark Rodriguez, his attorney, is that the girl and the mother can't be found.