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Sheriff's Sergeant Suspended for 6 Weeks

Suits: Status Used To Repossess Cars

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A Bernalillo County Sheriff's sergeant who was moonlighting as a repo man and who ultimately cost the department more than \$115,000 in

legal settlements has been suspended for six weeks, sheriff's officials said Thursday.

Last year, the sheriff's office launched an internal investigation into Bobby Rohlfs after two lawsuits were filed claiming the deputy repossessed or threatened to repossess people's cars while working for the sheriff's department.

The sheriff's office paid settlements in both cases.

Rohlfs' attorney was unavailable for comment Thursday.

According to one of the lawsuits, Rohlfs worked as a contractor for Pitre Buick Pontiac and GMC.

In one of the incidents, three deputies wearing badges and guns forced a woman to turn over her SUV, according to one of the lawsuits.

Those deputies claimed Rohlfs told them to contact the general manager of the dealership, who indicated the car had been fraudulently obtained.

In November, Sheriff Darren White acknowledged that there was no fraud case, that Rohlfs "misled" the depart-

ment and that the deputies should not have been involved.

In another incident, Rohlfs called a family who had bought an SUV, identified himself as a deputy and said he was assigned to mediate between the buyer and the dealer, according to one of the lawsuits.

The incidents prompted the State Attorney General's Office to issue a notice to Rohlfs, ordering him to stop interfering "in these type of matters."

Rohlfs was getting paid by the dealership the entire time, according to

one of the lawsuits.

In addition to losing six weeks' pay, Rohlfs has been passed up for promotion, sheriff's officials said.

The discipline came after months of negotiations between Rohlfs' attorneys and White.

The deputy can't appeal the discipline.

Rohlfs supervises the department's street crimes unit, which investigates mostly theft cases.