

# Government dismisses immigration charge that targeted reserve deputy from Canada

December 13, 2012 at 5:21 PM

MONTGOMERY, Alabama — Illegal **immigration** charges have been dismissed against a **Canadian man who served as a reserve sheriff's deputy** in southeast Alabama.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Wallace Capel dismissed the charges Monday at about the same time the 46-year-old Henry County reserve deputy, Kevin Dwight Venhuis, was scheduled to appear before him for a hearing.

Venhuis volunteered as a reserve deputy for the sheriff's department for 25 years. His immigration status became an issue when he was divorced from his wife, an American citizen. He was arrested last week during a traffic stop.

Bryan Cox, a spokesman for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, said the government asked that the charges be dismissed, but he did not give a reason.

A resident of Abbeville, Venhuis was charged with being an illegal immigrant and possessing firearms without proper U.S. citizenship.

Henry County Sheriff William Maddox said earlier Venhuis volunteered for the department for years, and the fact he was Canadian was never an issue because he was married to an American woman.

But Maddox told the **Dothan Eagle** that Venhuis' citizenship became an issue because he got a divorce. The sheriff said Venhuis runs his own computer business in Henry County and does all the computer maintenance work for the sheriff's department.

[http://blog.al.com/wire/2012/12/government\\_dismisses\\_immigrati.html](http://blog.al.com/wire/2012/12/government_dismisses_immigrati.html)