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Suspended Blackwell Police Detective Pete Scott doubts that his nightmare will ever really end -- even though he has been acquitted of sexually abusing an 8-year-old Tulsa boy.

Scott, 40, said he has lost his career, his reputation and his relationship with the boy, to whom he is closely related.

“Sure, I was acquitted, but the damage was so severe I don't think it can ever be repaired,” he said at his sister's home in Stillwater on Saturday.

“There's always going to be a cloud that follows you around. That is a tragedy. They can never put you back on the same ground that you were before this.”

Scott had been with the Blackwell Police Department six years when he was arrested by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation on April 3, 1995, and suspended without pay, pending disposition of the case. Since he lost his job as a

police officer, Scott has been working part time on a relative's farm west of Tonkawa and going to school.

The ordeal he has been through has made him question the criminal justice system, but he emphasized that he has no desire to return to law enforcement. Because he was acquitted, though, he said he will receive back pay and benefits.

And now, "I intend to devote time to educate people that these false accusations of abuse occur -- and they are very destructive," he said.

"I hope another innocent person never has to go through this again. If you were to live through your very worst nightmare for two years every day, that's what it's been."

Molesting a family member is a "hideous crime" to be accused of, Scott said, adding that he was deeply grateful that the jury at his Kay County trial last week was allowed to hear testimony that the allegations of sexual abuse "arose in the midst of a child-support dispute."

"I've never blamed him (the child). He got caught up in a lie," Scott emphasized.

The jury of five women and seven men deliberated for less than two hours Thursday before acquitting Scott of both first-degree rape and lewd molestation.

Scott said he was in a state of disbelief when the charges were filed against him.

Four months after he was arrested, he learned that there was no physical evidence of sexual abuse of the child, Scott said.

“I was alleged to have done this (anal rape) at least 50 times to a child, when he was 7 and 8 years old,” Scott said.

“When the DA's office and the OSBI learned there was no physical evidence to suggest sexual abuse occurred, the investigation should have made a turn then.”

Scott said he is concerned that “there are probably hundreds, maybe thousands, of fathers who are in prison because of similar false allegations.

“You know what this is very reminiscent of?” he asked. “The Salem witch trials.

“I thank God for giving me the courage to get through this.”

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