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## Arkansas pastor accused of assault appears in court

March 24, 2012 11:00 am • By The Associated Press

JONESBORO, Ark. — An Arkansas pastor says he's prepared to face his criminal charges after he was arrested on suspicion of sexually assaulting a teenage girl from Nebraska.

Charles Hughes appeared in court Thursday for a first appearance after he was arrested on suspicion of first-degree sexual assault, contributing to the delinquency of a minor and obstructing governmental operations.

Police accuse the Monette pastor of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl who was reported missing in Fairbury. The teen, who's related to Hughes' wife, was found safe Wednesday at a mobile home in Monette.

Police say federal charges are possible because the teen was taken across state lines. Hughes is scheduled to be arraigned April 13.

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