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## **Former minister pleads guilty to sex offenses**

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Former youth minister Rex Jason Sumner pleaded guilty in Payne County District Court on Friday to four counts of oral sodomy, four counts of lewd molestation, one count of second-degree rape and one count of indecent proposal to a child.

According to an affidavit filed with the court by Walter Longan, deputy sheriff of Payne County, Longan was dispatched Dec. 18 to River of Life Church on Highway 177 on a call of a male "giving drugs to youth belonging to the church."

Upon arrival, Longan met with family members of two girls, a 12-year-old and a 15-year-old. One girl's sister and brother reported they had found a note passed between the girls indicating they had used drugs and engaged in sexual activity with Sumner.

District Attorney Robert Hudson filed charges against Sumner Jan. 3.

In the case of the 15-year-old girl, he was charged with three counts of oral sodomy, each punishable by imprisonment for up to 20 years, one count of lewd molestation, punishable by imprisonment for one to 20 years, and one count of rape in the second degree, punishable by a term of not more than 15 years in prison, according to court documents.

In the case of the 12-year-old girl, Sumner was charged with two counts of lewd molestation, oral sodomy and indecent proposal to a child. Indecent proposal to a child is punishable by imprisonment from one to 20 years.

A pre-sentencing investigation was ordered, and Sumner is to appear for sentencing May 10 at 10 a.m.

In February 2001, Sumner pleaded guilty to unlawful delivery of marijuana and conspiracy.

The court deferred sentencing for five years on the count of conspiracy and ordered 500 hours of community service.

On the count of unlawful delivery of marijuana, the court sentenced Sumner to seven years in the custody of the Department of Corrections but suspended the sentence and ordered him to pay \$2,500 in fines and court costs and ordered he be supervised by the Department of Corrections for two years.