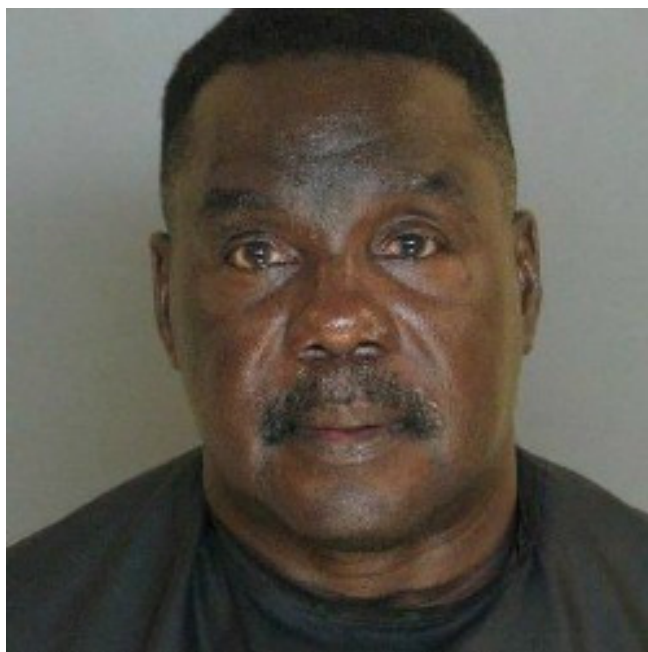


Minister accused of molesting church girls, calling it a "healing process"



Jail Photo



Kimathi Lewis
Columbia Crime Examiner

June 25, 2013

For two years, a Sumter minister allegedly sexually assaulted three young members of his church after telling them it was part of the healing process, police said.

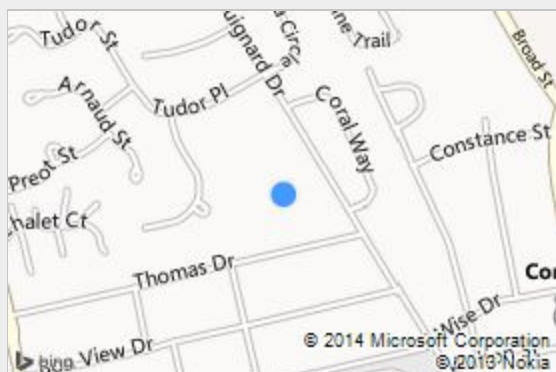
And investigators believe there may be more victims.

Mr. Larry Durant, 58, was charged with two counts of second-degree criminal sexual conduct with a minor between 11 and 14 years old as well as four counts of third-degree criminal sexual conduct, according to Sumter police.

“Detectives say they had been investigating reports from the victims and victims’ family that Durant had coerced the victims into sexual intercourse using his position in the church and convincing them that it was part of a ‘healing process’ and ‘private prayer,’” police spokesman Deputy Chief Alvin Holston said in news release.

The females told police that the alleged assaults took place at **Word International Ministry** facilities on Manning Avenue and

1010 North Guignard Drive,
Sumter, SC



1010 N Guignard Dr, Sumter, SC 29150

North Guignard Drive, Deputy Chief Holston said.

They also stated that some of the alleged incidents occurred at the pastor's residence on Four Bridges Road.

"The incidents occurred on multiple occasions from 2011 to 2013," Mr. Holston said.

Mr. Durant is also charged with forgery after he allegedly forged the name of one of the victim's grandmother on a **Quit Claim Deed** and filed it with the Sumter County Register of Deeds, the deputy chief said.

The alleged forgery occurred after the sexual assaults were reported to law enforcement, he said.

Mr. Durant is currently being held at the Sumter-Lee Regional Detention Center pending a bond hearing.

The Sumter County Sheriff Office is investigating the assaults that allegedly happened at his home.

"Sumter Police believe there may be other victims and encourage them to come forward," Deputy Chief Holston said.

Anyone with information pertaining to these crimes is asked to contact the Sumter Police Department at (803) 436-2717 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 274-6372.

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