



[Children\](#)

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[Re: S.S.](#)

Sex Offender and Sex Crime News

Youth minister sentenced for sex  
 2002-10-05 heraldtribune.com

A Pinellas County youth minister was sentenced to 135 years in prison after being convicted of having sex with three teenage boys.

A jury deliberated two hours before finding Randy Lee Morrow, 42, guilty of nine charges involving allegations that he had sex with the teens, ages 13 to 15, while he was their pastor at Countryside Baptist Church in Clearwater.

Circuit Judge Phil Federico immediately sentenced Morrow to 135 years in prison for charges that ranged from sexual activity with a minor to lewd and lascivious behavior and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

"If I could give you more (time), I would," Federico said at Thursday's court proceedings.

Prosecutor Tim Hessinger told jurors that Morrow lured the three victims with cigarettes and alcohol, getting them drunk so he could take advantage of them by having sex in his RV, the church and local parks.

Morrow denied having sex with the teens, although he admitted on the witness stand that he lied to them often about his life and experiences so they would like him.

Defense attorneys said the teens made up stories about Morrow because they were angry at his lies and that he was leaving the church to begin a new ministry for the homeless.

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Current Poll

Which choice best reflects how you would react if your adult child was arrested for a sex offense involving a minor?

- Do anything you can to support your son/daughter, even if you have doubts about his/her innocence.
- Do anything you can to support your son/daughter, but only if you are confident he/she is innocent.
- Do anything you can to support your son/daughter, even if you are confident he/she is guilty.
- Offer no support, including no assistance with bail.
- Break off contact with your son/daughter completely.
- Not sure.
- None of the above.

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[S.S.](#)  
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