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## Texas Preacher Accused of Rape Commits Suicide in West Virginia Jail

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### UPDATE 5/22/11 @ 6:45 p.m.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- A Texas man facing charges of sexual assault attempted to commit suicide in Jail Saturday. He was later pronounced dead.

South Central Regional Jail Official John Lopez says jail staff found Matthew Jarrell between 11 and 11:30 p.m. Saturday night after he tried to hang himself.

Kanawha County Sheriff's Deputies told WSAZ.com Jarrell was arrested and charged Thursday afternoon after a woman claimed he picked her up and raped her in Sissonville, W.Va.

Lopez says jail staff and paramedics tried to revive Jarrell. He says they sent him to the hospital where he was pronounced dead around 12:30 a.m.

Sheriff's Deputies say Jarrell told them he was a preacher in Texas and that his family was moving to South Point, Ohio.



CHARLESTON, W.Va. (WSAZ) -- A man who claims he was a preacher in Texas is facing sexual assault charges in the Kanawha Valley.

Matthew Jarrell was charged and arraigned on the charges Thursday afternoon.

According to the criminal complaint, a woman claims Jarrell picked her up in Charleston on Thursday morning when she needed a ride home. However, the woman says instead of taking her home, he allegedly took her to a secluded area off Martin's Branch Road near Sissonville and raped her.

Jarrell's truck got stuck in the mud and that is when the woman says she got away.

Kanawha County Sheriff's Deputies tell WSAZ.com Jarrell told them he was a preacher in Texas and that his family is moving to South Point, Ohio and he was traveling through the Kanawha Valley.

Deputies say he did admit to deputies, he did have sex with the woman.

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