

Ex-Alabama pastor charged with sexual abuse, sodomy of children

Former Birmingham-area pastor, Rev. Jay Strickland, has since bonded out of jail following last month's charges of two counts of sexual abuse and one count of first-degree sodomy after two adults accused him of molesting them as children.

BY NINA GOLGOWSKI [Follow](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Tuesday, July 8, 2014, 4:43 PM A A A

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JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL

Rev. Jay Strickland, a former Birmingham-area pastor, has been charged with sexual abuse and sodomy after two adult victims came forward claiming he abused them as children.

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A former Alabama pastor has been charged with sexual abuse and sodomy after two adults came forward accusing him of molesting them as children.

Ex-Birmingham-area pastor, Rev. Jay Strickland, has since bonded out of jail following last month's charges of two counts of sexual abuse and one count of first-degree sodomy.

An investigation into the alleged abuse was launched in April after a man came forward accusing Strickland of abusing him as a child.

Shortly after, [Jefferson County sheriff's Sgt. Jack Self](#) told [AL.com](#) that they tracked down a woman who echoed similar child abuse allegations from years ago.

Strickland's defense attorney, Richard Jaffe, waved the charges off as "unproven."

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"Jay is deeply distressed and shocked about these unproven allegations," he told [AJ.com](#).

He added that Strickland "has an exemplary background and character and those who know him are extremely upset and equally shocked by these allegations."

Sharon Heights Baptist Church, where Strickland had served as the Jefferson County church's administrative pastor, has since cut all ties with him.

"Upon knowledge of the allegations against Mr. Jay Strickland, the necessary legal authorities were notified, and Mr. Strickland was placed upon an indefinite leave of absence from the church," the church's senior pastor Rev. Terry Trivette said in a statement. "Upon knowledge of Mr. Strickland's arrest, he was formally relieved of his duties and is no longer employed by Sharon Heights Baptist Church."

Strickland is out on \$70,000 bond. He faces a preliminary court hearing on July 17.

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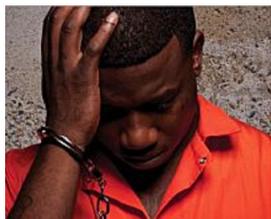


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It takes a ton of courage to come forward and take action about being sexually abused. This is not an easy thing to do, but it is extremely rare that a child predator has only one victim. Some have many. Child predators need to be kept far away from kids forever, so let's hope that anyone who may have knowledge or may have been harmed by Jay Strickland, will find the courage to come forward and contact law enforcement.

Silence is not an option anymore, it only hurts, and by speaking up there is a chance for healing, exposing the truth, and therefore protecting others.

Judy Jones, SNAP Midwest Associate Director, 636-433-2511, snapjudy@gmail.com

SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, is the world's oldest and largest support group for clergy abuse victims. SNAP was founded in 1988 and has more than 20,000 members. Despite the word "priest" in our title, we have members who were molested by religious figures of all denominations, including nuns, rabbis, bishops, and Protestant ministers and increasingly, victims who were assaulted in a wide range of institutional settings like summer camps, athletic programs, Boy Scouts, etc

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