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Local Minister, Helper Charged With Assault

Flowers, Bassitt Allegedly Dragged Girl Behind Van

POSTED: 6:46 pm CDT August 10, 2007

UPDATED: 7:22 pm CDT August 10, 2007

SAN ANTONIO -- A local minister and one of his assistants Friday were charged with aggravated assault in connection with a Nueces County dragging incident.

The accuser is a 15-year-old girl who attended their summer boot camp for troubled teens.

KSAT's Johanne Lochard reported that Rev. Charles Flowers is the minister at San Antonio's Faith Outreach Center. On Friday, he had to answer to a higher authority -- a magistrate judge.

Flowers was charged with aggravated assault along with Stephanie Bassitt, 20.

"These are the specific people she says caused her injuries," said Nueces County Lt. Mike Lowrance.

The injuries that the victim's mother had photos of were suffered while attending the boot camp, police said, where Flowers served as the self-proclaimed "commandant" and Bassett acted as training assistant.

The teen said Bassett held her down while Flowers tied her to the back of a vehicle, Lochard said. She was dragged after being forced to run behind a moving van.

Bobbi Greer said she witnessed the dragging. She worked as a cook at the Nueces County Ranch, where the alleged assault happened in early June.

"Every time she would fall, they would drag her," Greer said.

Church administrators said they were "surprised" by the charges. They said the summer boot camp has been credited with saving hundreds of troubled teens.

None of that matters to Nueces County investigators, however, who said they believe the camp leaders crossed the line between tough love and criminal assault.

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