

## OHIO: Baptist minister Rodney Stewart indicted for sexually explicit online communication

Written by Jennifer Karpus, Sun News  
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**BROADVIEW HEIGHTS**—A Broadview Heights minister was arrested last week after being caught having crude internet conversations with a minor.

Rodney Stewart, 43 of Broadview Heights, ran his own ministry doing speaking engagements around the country. He was currently working with the Broadview Heights Baptist Church when he was charged with three counts of importuning, possession of criminal tools and disseminating materials harmful to a juvenile.

According to Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Bill Mason's Office, Stewart was chatting online between June 2010 and August 2010 with what he thought was a 15-year-old girl and her mother, but in reality were Franklin County Sheriff's deputies, who were working as part of the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC).

Allegedly, Stewart discussed meeting the 15-year-old to have sex with her and her mother. He also e-mailed a picture of his genitals.

Representatives from the ICAC and Franklin County Sheriff's Department, along with a Broadview Heights detective executed a search warrant of Stewart's home. On Aug. 20, the man was arrested, his computers were seized.

Stewart ultimately confessed to the crime. His arraignment is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Thursday morning in Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

Contact Karpus at (216) 986-7543 or [jkarpus@sunnews.com](mailto:jkarpus@sunnews.com)

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