

Report: Former pastor fired 3 years after alleged abuse

◀ **CHURCH** from A1 of Sunshine Tree, the day care affiliated with the church. The alleged abuse occurred from August through October of 2018, beginning with “flirtatious” messages and progressing to nude photos and a video of Masopust masturbating, kissing and groping of her breasts and genitals, according to the

criminal complaint. The first physical contact happened when the girl was working at Sunshine Tree and Masopust asked his mother-in-law if he could “borrow” the girl for an event. He took her up a back hallway near his office and began kissing her, the report said, touching her everywhere, though “Masopust

could tell she was not very receptive or responsive to his advances” and became more aggressive. One Sunday, Masopust allegedly sent the girl of photograph of himself in his underwear as he was getting ready for church. The girl told authorities she looked up to Masopust for such a long time and “it felt

weird to say no,” the report said, and she indicated Masopust had been her pastor since she was in elementary school. The texting continued, with Masopust eventually sending a photo of himself naked, and urging the girl to send him a nude photo, the complaint said. Masopust reportedly kissed and groped her

in the basement of his family’s home when the girl was there to babysit, trying to get access to her body under her clothing several times. Each time, she pushed him away and told him no, according to the court documents. The alleged incidents stopped in October, when Masopust’s wife found messages on his phone. According to a message he sent the girl, he was in Kansas because Perryman “sent him there to take some time off.”

could remain friends. The girl’s mother said the church never told her anything about the alleged abuse. In the state of Minnesota, members of clergy, daycare providers, administrators in non-profits and family members are all mandated reporters, designed to protect children and vulnerable adults. As such, they are required by law to report “suspected abuse or molestation of any kind” to law enforcement within 24 hours, and if applicable, to child protective services within 72 hours. Failure to do so is a misdemeanor, if not reported within three years. During the three years since the alleged incidents, Masopust was an employee of Teachers on Call, the substitute teacher service used by Owatonna Public Schools. Superintendent Jeff Elstad said Teachers on Call “does all of its own background checks” on employees, and there were no reports of any incidents with Masopust. “It appears he was at the high school a couple of times,” Elstad said, and in the REACH program, which was designed to help students needing support in the areas of relationships, education, accountability, character and hard work. The Perrymans didn’t return calls for comment; a church employee hung up when asked when they might be available. The Minnesota Assemblies of God superintendent who reported the allegations to police told the Times via text that “we have made thorough and timely reports, not only to our National Office which oversees ministers’ credentials, but also the Owatonna police... all disciplinary processes are functioning.” He didn’t respond to a question about when church officials first learned of the allegations against Masopust.



Why tax refunds should be directed deposited

As the 2022 filing season begins, the IRS encourages taxpayers to file electronically when they are ready and choose direct deposit to get their refund. Direct deposit is the safest and most convenient way to receive a tax refund.

Here are some other benefits of choosing IRS direct deposit:

- **It’s fast.** The fastest way for taxpayers to get their refund is to electronically file and choose direct deposit. Visit IRS.gov for details about IRS Free File, Free File Fillable Forms, free tax return preparation and more. Taxpayers who file a paper return can also choose direct deposit, but it will take longer to process the return and get a refund.
- **It’s secure.** Since refunds are electronically deposited, there’s no risk of having a paper check stolen or lost in the mail.
- **It’s easy.** Taxpayers can simply follow the instructions when selecting direct deposit as a refund method and enter their account information as directed. They must enter the correct account and routing numbers when they file.
- **It provides options.** Taxpayers can split a refund into several financial accounts. These include checking, savings, health, education and certain retirement accounts. They should use IRS Form 8888, Allocation of Refund, Including Savings Bond Purchases to deposit a refund in up to three accounts. However, this form cannot be used to designate part of a refund to pay tax preparers.

Taxpayers should deposit refunds into U.S. bank accounts in their own name, their spouse’s name or both. They should avoid making a deposit into accounts owned by others. Some

banks require both spouses’ names on the account to deposit a tax refund from a joint return. Taxpayers should check with their bank for direct deposit rules.

Get banked

Taxpayers who don’t have a bank account can visit the FDIC website for information on banks that allow them to open an account online and how to choose the right account. Veterans can use the Veterans Benefits Banking Program for access to financial services at participating banks. Tax preparers may also offer electronic payment options.

Mobile apps may be an option

Some mobile apps and prepaid debit cards allow for direct deposit of tax refunds. They must have routing and account numbers associated with them that can be entered on a tax return. Taxpayers should check with the mobile app provider or financial institution to confirm which numbers to use.

Taxpayers must have their routing and account numbers for direct deposit available when they are ready to file. The IRS can’t accept this information after a return is filed.

There is a limit of three direct deposit refunds made into a single financial account or prepaid debit card.

Source: IRS



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TIMELINE:

June 2018: First “sexual-type” message; Masopust allegedly asks the girl what kind of underwear she is wearing.

August 2018: First physical contact; Masopust allegedly kisses and gropes the girl in a back hallway of Northridge Church.

Late summer 2018: Masopust allegedly sends a photo of himself in his underwear and a nude photo of himself to the girl.

September or October 2018: Masopust allegedly sends the girl a video of himself masturbating.

September or October 2018: Masopust allegedly kisses and gropes the girl while she was babysitting in Masopust’s home.

October 2018: Masopust sends the girl a message that they “can’t talk anymore” because his wife “found the messages and got upset.”

October 2018: Perryman sends Masopust to Kansas “to take some time off.”

November 2020: Alleged victim returns to Northridge Church; Masopust’s wife asks her to be an adult youth leader.

October 19, 2021: Representatives from Minnesota Assemblies of God visit Northridge; the girl tells her story.

October 2021: Perryman fires Masopust as youth pastor for “conduct unbecoming a pastor.”

Dec. 21, 2021: Kayla Mollenhauer, a former member of the Northridge Youth Group, writes a Facebook post outlining what she calls her “religious trauma,” naming Felicia and Sean Masopust. It was shared nearly 200 times.

Dec. 23, 2021: The superintendent for Minnesota Assemblies of God goes to Owatonna Police to report the allegations.

Dec. 24, 2021: Owatonna Police contact the alleged victim and her mother, who come to the police station.

Jan. 24, 2022: Minnesota Assemblies of God sends “finding of fact” to OPD, confirming the allegations made about Masopust.

Feb. 1, 2022: Masopust is arrested at his home in Owatonna.

Feb. 2, 2022: Masopust makes his first appearance in Steele County District Court; bonds out of jail on \$5,000 conditional bail.

Feb. 4, 2022: Tammy Perryman resigns as director of Sunshine Tree, the daycare affiliated with Northridge Church.

Feb. 6, 2022: Mark Perryman resigns as minister of Northridge Church.