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NEWS (/NEWS) SEP 21 2015, 5:42 AM ET

Olympic Gymnastics Coach Accused of Molestation Found Dead in Jail

by TIM STELLOH

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An Olympic gymnastics coach facing child molestation and sexual misconduct charges in Indianapolis was found dead in his jail cell on Saturday night in an apparent suicide, authorities said.


The coach, Marvin Sharp, 49, was taken to a hospital just after 8 p.m. at the county jail where he was being held, Marion County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Katie Carlson said. Authorities believe he committed suicide, she said.



Sharp was arrested last month after authorities raided his home and found thousands of video and image files containing child pornography, NBC affiliate WTHR reported

(http://media1.s-nbcnews.com/j/news/cms/2015_39/1191281/150825-marvin-sharp-use-jpo-

637a_dd41404ae4e4fbf6f1836ff072441878.nbcnews-ux-2880-1000.jpg)

Image: Marvin Sharp was a member of the 2008 U.S. Olympic Womens Gymnastics team.  USOC / MCT via Getty Images

(<http://www.wthr.com/story/30072506/gymnastics-coach-marvin-sharp-found-dead-in-jail-cell>).

Sharp, who opened Sharp's Gymnastics Academy 14 years ago, sent over 100 athletes to national championships, according to the academy's website (<http://www.sharpsgym.com/>).

In 2008, two of his gymnasts — Samantha Peszek and Bridget Sloan — won silver medals at the Olympic games in Beijing.

According to criminal court documents, one young student described a recent two-year period when Sharp took "hundreds if not thousands of photos of her in various poses."

Sharp would allegedly touch her inappropriately, the documents say, and at one point he asked her to wear a straightjacket.

In an interview with police, Sharp confirmed the photo-shoots but described the photographs as "muscle pictures" and said the student's mother authorized them, according to the documents. Sharp told police he did not mean to make the student "feel uncomfortable," the documents say.

Sharp was being held on four counts each of child molestation and sexual conduct with a minor, according to jail records. He was booked on Aug. 24.

TIM STELLOH  (MAILTO:TIM.STELLOH@NBCUNI.COM)

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FIRST PUBLISHED SEP 20 2015, 5:34 PM ET

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NEWS (/NEWS) SEP 21 2015, 7:33 AM ET

Selma Pastor and Congregation Are 'Heroes' for Disarming Gunman: Cops

by ALEXANDER SMITH

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► Police Laud 'Several Heroes' at Selma Church Shooting 0:32

A pastor and members of his congregation have been hailed as "heroes" for disarming an alleged gunman (<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/selma-church-shooter-allegedly-fires-girlfriend-infant-pastor-n430676>) who police say attempted to kill his girlfriend and infant son inside an Alabama church.

Pastor Earl Carswell was shot and injured while subduing 26-year-old suspect James Junior Minter, who allegedly opened fire Sunday at the Oasis Tabernacle Church in Selma. Minter — whose girlfriend and 1-month-old son also were injured — fled the church but was later arrested not far away.

"There were several heroes in there," Lt. Curtis Muhannad, of the Selma Police Department, told reporters. "It takes a lot when you have someone with a firearm that's actually firing upon a person in a closed-quarters area, and you do whatever you can with regards to your own life to protect someone else's life."



(<http://media3.s->

[nbcnews.com/j/news/cms/2015_38/1230496/james-junior-minter-770c672b47db9d884ae1bd9f529d02ux-2880-1000.jpg](http://www.nbcnews.com/j/news/cms/2015_38/1230496/james-junior-minter-770c672b47db9d884ae1bd9f529d02ux-2880-1000.jpg))

James Junior Minter, 26, was charged with attempted murder after allegedly shooting his girlfriend, their infant son and a pastor during a church service. 📷 Selma Police Department

Department.

Minter's 24-year-old girlfriend was shot in the shoulder and jaw and the couple's 1-month-old son was shot in the hand, police said. Carswell, 61, was shot in the leg while trying to grab the alleged shooter, police added.



(<http://media4.s->


[nbcnews.com/j/news/cms/2015_38/1230486/selmachurchshootingpic_557121d66e613c8aae81e35ecf9bf](http://www.nbcnews.com/j/news/cms/2015_38/1230486/selmachurchshootingpic_557121d66e613c8aae81e35ecf9bf)


Members of the congregation said Minter walked into the church Sunday morning and sat down between his girlfriend and their infant son in the front row before pulling out a handgun and opening fire, according to the police statement.

The pastor and others in the church were able to subdue Minter before the suspect fled, police added. Minter was later captured by officers less than a mile from the church and arrested on suspicion of three counts of attempted murder, according to a statement from Selma Police

Minter's girlfriend and child have not been identified by police. Detectives were working on child visitation issues and domestic violence as a possible motive, according to the Selma Police Department.

ux-2880-1000.jpg)

Oasis Tabernacle in Selma, Alabama, where a man allegedly shot his girlfriend, his infant son and a pastor during a church service.  WFSA

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