



OFFICE OF  
Steve Boyer

# KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF

614 DIVISION ST. MS-37 • PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON 98366 • (360) 337-5698 • FAX 337-4923

For immediate release:  
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## Update

## **Wanted church pastor now in custody**

**Port Orchard, Wash.** -- The church official who is the suspect in allegations of child rape and other sexual abuse is now in custody.

Robbin Leeroy Harper, 60, pastor of The Church in South Colby, voluntarily surrendered to sheriff's detectives late this morning. He was accompanied by his attorney-at-law when he arrived at the sheriff's office lobby at the Kitsap County Courthouse in Port Orchard.

Harper was taken into custody by detectives and booked into the Kitsap County Jail on two counts of rape of a child, 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. Bail was set initially at \$500,000.

The investigation began nine days ago when one of his victims, now an adult, called 9-1-1 and requested contact to report a sex offense. It soon began to unravel that there was a strong possibility of there being multiple victims, with multiple offenses against any one victim, and that the pattern of abuse had been on-going since some of the victims were pre-teens.

During the initial stages of the investigation sheriff's detectives established probable cause to arrest Harper on the charges for which he was booked into jail.

Not surprisingly, since information about the investigation was made public last Friday afternoon (Oct. 26), sheriff's detectives have been contacted by two additional persons who have come forward to report sexual abuse or misconduct that involved Harper.

Harper is scheduled to make a preliminary appearance in Kitsap County Superior Court at 3:00 p.m. tomorrow.

The investigation continues. Anyone with any information about this investigation, or persons who feel that they were victimized by Harper, are urged to contact Det. Lori Blankenship at (360) 337-5615.

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