

## Merrywood youth pastor charged with molestation

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Douglas Randall Pope, the youth pastor at Merrywood Baptist Church, was arrested for child molestation after Statesboro police executed a search warrant at his home Tuesday.

Douglas Randall Pope, the youth pastor at Merrywood Baptist Church was arrested for child molestation after Statesboro police executed a search warrant at his home Wednesday.

*From a press release by the Statesboro police department:*

On May 20, 2011, the Criminal Investigations Bureau of the Statesboro Police Department received a complaint, alleging that a 14 year-old juvenile female was being molested by a 31 year-old male. The complainant advised that the male was the Youth Pastor of Merrywood Baptist Church in Statesboro. The victim advised that the inappropriate behavior and touching has been occurring over the past two years and also involved other juvenile females. Additional interviews were conducted with other juvenile females and additional complaints were received.

On May 24, 2011, Detectives executed a search warrant at the residence of Douglas Randall Pope, located at 315 South Zetterower Avenue. Computers, Cameras and related Digital Media were seized from the apartment. Pope was at the residence during the search and was later interviewed at the Statesboro Police Department concerning these complaints. As a result of this investigation and the interview with Pope, he was arrested and charged with three (3) counts of Enticing a Child for Indecent Purposes and one (1) count of Child Molestation.

This investigation is ongoing and additional charges are anticipated in this case. Personnel with Merrywood Baptist Church have been made aware of the investigation and the arrest of Pope. The Church is cooperating with the investigation. Anyone with information concerning this case is asked to contact the Criminal Investigative Bureau of the Statesboro Police Department at (912)764-9911. Detective Ben Purvis and Detective Sergeant James Winskey are leading this investigation. Information can also be submitted via the internet at [Crimereports.com](http://Crimereports.com) by clicking [here](#).

**Offender:**  
Douglas Randall Pope / White Male / 31 years of age  
315 South Zetterower Avenue, Apt 18  
Statesboro, Georgia, 30458

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Douglas Randall Pope, 31, of 315 South Zetterower, was charged with three counts of enticing a child for indecent purposes and one count of child molestation. Police recovered computers and digital media from his house Tuesday.

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