

News Release

Aberdeen Police Department
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Former Principal and Paraeducator Charged with Failure to Report Rape of a Student

The diligent work of Aberdeen Criminal Investigations Division detectives has led to the identification and charging of Regina Jones, 44, and Tonya Johnson, 56, with failure to report child abuse/neglect after a student disclosed to them they were a victim of a rape.

On April 18, 2023, police were alerted by a local hospital about a past rape involving a juvenile victim. Subsequent investigation revealed that the rape had occurred on April 12, 2023, and the victim reported it to Aberdeen Middle School (AMS) faculty on April 13, 2023.

After receiving the initial report, detectives began an investigation into the complaint. Detectives determined that Jones, the principal of AMS, and Johnson, a paraeducator, knew about the rape on April 13, 2023, when the victim confided to school officials. Both Jones and Johnson are mandated reporters in the State of Maryland, which requires educators to report child abuse or neglect as soon as possible and does not require proof to initiate a report. Neither Jones nor Johnson made a mandated report of the rape to police or child protective services to inform them of the crime.

After detectives completed their investigation, they submitted their findings to the Harford County State's Attorney's Office for a formal review of the facts of the case. On July 16, 2024, Jones and Johnson were criminally indicted, and warrants were issued for their arrests. Jones was arrested and released on July 26, 2024, and Johnson was arrested and released on August 1, 2024; both have pending court dates.

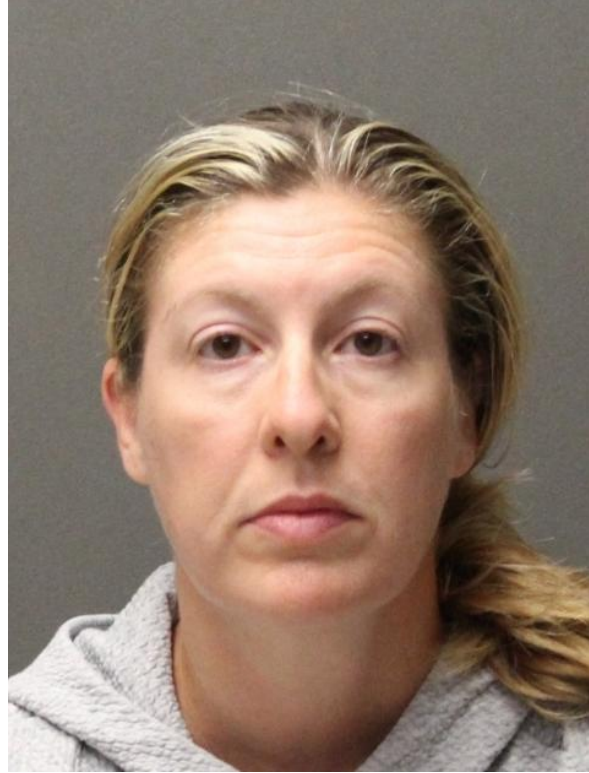
Detectives charged a 17-year-old with the rape.

Prepared By: Captain C. William Reiber

***Images of Jones and Johnson next page.



JOHNSON



JONES