

Hickory Coach Arrested For Rape

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Police have arrested Hickory High School's head boys basketball coach Shawn Johnson on multiple charges of statutory rape and sexual activity with a student. Johnson was arrested Tuesday morning on five indictments issued by a Catawba County Grand Jury on Monday. Police have not released the victim's name, but said she is in the 13-to-15-year-old

range and the illicit contact happened when she was still a current student at Hickory High School. Hickory City Schools reported the allegations against Johnson to the Hickory Police Department on May 24. He was arrested 62 days later. Johnson is a physical education coach and wide receivers coach in football in addition to being the head coach of the boy's basketball team. He was hired at Hickory High on July 31, 2002 and placed on paid administrative leave on June 1.

The police investigation is ongoing. Johnson was charged with four counts of statutory rape from incidents in 2007 and 2008 and a charge of sexual activity with a student by a teacher in connection with a 2009 incident, according to court records. Several current Hickory High students said they'd heard rumors about Johnson's improper relationships with students, but they didn't believe what they'd heard.