

18 Year Old Football Player Charged With Child Molestation

News

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SMITHVILLE, MO ([KCTV](#)) - A well-known high school football player in Smithville is facing child molestation charges. Jacob Arnold, 18, has been charged with molesting at least two children in his neighborhood.



According to a probable cause statement, the senior at Smithville High School was looking after the children of a family friend. The children told their mother that Arnold laid on top of them and pinched their private parts, and threatened to hurt them if they told anyone.

Arnold was arrested earlier this week, but was released on bond and under a court-ordered curfew.

Several neighbors who spoke off camera said they were surprised by the allegations.

When neighbors pointed out Arnold's father on a public sidewalk to KCTV5's Nathan Vickers, he approached him with a camera.

Arnold's father wasn't happy. Vickers never set foot on his property, but Arnold's father walked up to the camera and put his hand over the lens.

Vickers asked Arnold's father if he would comment on the charges against his son.

"Why would I address something that has charged, sir? You can speak to my attorney," Arnold's father told Vickers. "You're spreading something that's unnecessary."

Arnold has not been convicted of any crime. He has charged with first-degree child molestation.

After these charges surfaced, the Smithville School District released a statement about the troubling accusations.

"Smithville School District officials are concerned first and foremost for the safety and welfare of its students and staff," the district said.

School officials went on to say that no alleged criminal activity took place on school property and none of the alleged victims are current Smithville students.

"Mr. Arnold is currently enrolled as a student at Smithville High School. He will not be attending classes for the remainder of this term," the district said.

Arnold will also not participate in a graduation ceremony May 18.