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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Juvenile Arrested for Home-Invasion Robbery,  
Left Victim Tied-Up for Four Days**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of a juvenile for a home-invasion robbery in East Brandywine Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The charged juvenile attacked a 72 year old woman in her home, stole her car and credit cards, then left the victim bound and locked in a dark room for four days.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "This juvenile engaged in a brutal attack on the victim, then showed a callous disregard for her life. The charged juvenile is lucky that the victim did not die. If the victim had not been found by her family, the defendant would be facing murder charges."

East Brandywine Township Police Chief Mark Kocsi stated, "Thank you to the District Attorney's Office and their Detectives, the Baltimore City Police Department, and to the many police agencies and medical and other support teams that assisted us at the scene and with the investigation. A special thank you to the victim and her family for their strength and perseverance. Our prayers are with them for a full recovery."

The allegations against the charged juvenile are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

The victim<sup>2</sup> in this case is a 72 year old woman who lived alone at a home on Creek Road in East Brandywine Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The victim has a regular job and had no prior contact with the juvenile. She is a mother and a grandmother.

The charged juvenile is a 17 year old male. He was residing at Devereux Brandywine, a behavioral health facility near where the victim lives. He is originally from Thailand, with a local address in Media, PA.

On Wednesday, February 22, 2017, the victim was at home in the morning. She left the house from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. When she returned home, she discovered that somebody had burglarized her home, stealing credit cards. She then left for her regularly scheduled work day.

The victim returned from work at approximately 7:30 p.m. As she walked back into her home, she was grabbed and struck. During the assault, the attacker told her, "You'll be with Jesus soon." She was strangled until she lost consciousness.

The attacker then covered the victim's head with a shopping bag, secured around her neck with duct tape. Her arms were tied in back of her with zip ties, duct tape, and cloth. Her knees and ankles were bound together with duct tape.

Before leaving, the attacker tossed the bound victim into a small, unlit storage area underneath a set of stairs in the house. The room is shown in the attached pictures. The victim was left tied up in the room, without food or water or light, for four days, from Wednesday night until Sunday morning.

The attacker stole the victim's credit cards, car (a 2013 silver Fiat 500), phone, and other items. When the victim did not telephone anybody for several days, her family grew worried and checked up on her. A family member entered the residence at about 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 26, 2017. The victim was found badly dehydrated, malnourished, and injured from the assault, but still alive. She was rushed to Paoli Hospital where she received emergency treatment. She will survive.

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<sup>2</sup> Given the nature of the case and security/privacy concerns, the victim is not identified by name.

The East Brandywine Township Police Department and Chester County Detectives immediately began to investigate the case. They discovered that a juvenile had been placed at Devereux Brandywine, a behavioral health facility for juveniles near the victim's home, but had escaped from Devereux on February 22, the same day as the attack. The staff at Devereux had reported the juvenile's absence to the police. The juvenile returned to Devereux on February 24, two days after the attack, but subsequently was transferred to another facility.

The police traced the use of the victim's stolen credit cards. They discovered that one of her credit cards was used in Maryland on February 22, the same day as the attack. The police recovered video from the store where the credit card was used. The juvenile who had escaped from Devereux is clearly identifiable in the video, both emerging from the victim's stolen car and using the victim's credit card.

The police also checked with the staff at Devereux Brandywine, who were very cooperative throughout the investigation. The juvenile already had been transferred to another facility. The police executed a search warrant on the juvenile's belongings left at Devereux. The police recovered the clothes that the juvenile was wearing when he used the victim's car and credit card. The police also recovered the victim's stolen phone at Devereux.

An employee at Devereux told the police that the juvenile bleached his shoes when he came back to Devereux. The police located the shoes, which had been bleached, but still had a distinctive diamond pattern on the soles of the shoes. The juvenile's shoes matched the pattern of foot prints left in the victim's home.

The juvenile was arrested on March 1, 2017. He has been charged with attempted homicide, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, strangulation, and related charges. The juvenile will have a public detention hearing on March 3, 2017 before a Juvenile Court Master. The Commonwealth will move to have the case certified to have the juvenile tried as an adult.

District Attorney Hogan added, "The victim showed remarkable courage and resilience in surviving the ordeal. She is strong physically and mentally, and will recover with the help of her family."

This case was investigated by the East Brandywine Township Police Department and the Chester County Detectives. Anybody with information should contact Chester County Detective Ben Martin at (610) 344-6866 or East Brandywine Detective Dan Orris at (610) 269-4300.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan