



**DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE OF CHESTER COUNTY**  
201 W. MARKET STREET, SUITE 4450  
POST OFFICE BOX 2748  
WEST CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA 19380-0991

Thomas P. Hogan  
District Attorney

TELEPHONE: 610-344-6801  
FAX: 610-344-5905

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Man Arrested for Sexual Assault on Children**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of Leroy Mitchell for molesting children in the defendant's care.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "We are going to land on this defendant like a ton of bricks. Anybody who sexually assaults a child in Chester County will be arrested, prosecuted, and punished as severely as the law permits."

Pennsylvania State Police Captain William White stated, "Sexual assault against children is a heinous crime that will not be tolerated. The State Police and the District Attorney's office will devote the necessary resources to ensure any additional victims of this crime are identified, so justice can be served."

The defendant is 60 years old. He resides at 1868 West Strasburg Road, West Bradford Township, Pennsylvania. Until his arrest, he was employed at Chester County Prison, but prison officials promptly terminated his employment. The defendant and his family have housed over 50 foster children over the last few decades.

The defendant initially was arrested on Friday, May 31, 2013, for assaulting one child. As a result of a follow-up investigation, the defendant is being charged today for assaults on a second child.

The allegations of the initial criminal complaint are as follows:<sup>1</sup>

Both of the children involved in these assaults were entrusted to the care of the defendant.

Victim 1 was nine years old at the time of the assaults. The defendant digitally penetrated the victim's vagina while both were swimming in the Brandywine Creek. The defendant also displayed himself naked to the child, attempted to get into bed with her, and engaged in other unlawful sexual conduct.

Victim 2 was between the ages of seven and nine years old at the time of the assaults on her. The assaults occurred at the defendant's residence. The defendant would make sure that he was alone with the victim, take her clothes off, then touch her vaginal area, chest, and buttocks.

The defendant has been charged with multiple counts of aggravated indecent assault, endangering the welfare of children, corruption of minors, and related offenses. Following the defendant's initial arrest, Magisterial District Judge John Bailey set the defendant's bail at \$500,000 cash. The defendant was remanded to the Montgomery County Prison instead of Chester County Prison as a precautionary measure. None of the illegal activities in question took place at Chester County Prison.

District Attorney Hogan added, "This investigation is not over. With dozens of foster children, there are multiple other potential victims out there. We are urging anybody with information to report it immediately."

Anybody with information should call PSP Trooper David Brodeur at (610) 486-6280 or Chester County Detective James Ciliberto at (610) 344-6866.

This case was investigated by the Pennsylvania State Police and Chester County Detectives. Assistant District Attorney Deborah Ryan of the District Attorney's Child Abuse Unit has been assigned to prosecute the case.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan

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