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March 7, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

**Alleged Child Abuser Out on Bail
Shoots Into Residence of Victim**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan and Acting Chief of Police Howard Holland of the Downingtown Police Department announced the arrest of defendant Douglas Kohen for attempted murder, witness intimidation, and related offenses. The defendant was out on bail in a child sex abuse case. On March 6, 2016, the defendant shot six times into the home of the child victim from the abuse case, with two children (including the abuse victim) and the children's father in the residence.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "This defendant shot directly through a window, just missing a child. We are not going to permit witness intimidation in Chester County, especially where children are involved. It was only by dumb luck and God's grace that this defendant did not kill a child."

Acting Chief Holland stated, "The Downingtown Police Department responded rapidly and professionally to this violent attack. By putting flash information out about the defendant and his vehicle, that enabled our colleagues at the West Goshen Police Department to catch the defendant and disarm him. He was taken off the street within hours of the attack."

The defendant is 63 years old. He resides at 279 West Uwchlan Avenue, Lot 44, East Caln Township, Downingtown, Pennsylvania. That residence is a trailer directly next to the residence where the child victim was staying.

The facts alleged in the complaint are as follows:¹

On January 7, 2016, the defendant was arrested and charged with corruption of minors, indecent assault, and related offenses for abusing a child under the age of 10. The preliminary hearing was scheduled to take place on March 9, 2016. The child victim is the daughter of the defendant's neighbor. The defendant was released after posting 10% of \$25,000 bail.

On March 6, 2016, three days before the scheduled preliminary hearing, the child victim was staying with her father in the residence adjoining the defendant's trailer. There was another child under the age of 10 in the residence as well.

At approximately 3:10 a.m. on March 6, the defendant approached the side window of the residence containing the child victim, another child, and the child victim's father. One of the children was on a couch next to the window.

The defendant fired six rounds from a .357 caliber revolver directly through the window. The father, who had been at the front of the trailer, grabbed the two children and crawled into the back of the trailer, calling 911.

The defendant fired all of the rounds available in his gun. The bullets went through the window, through the back wall of the residence, and into another residence containing two adults and three children. All of the children in both residences were badly frightened, but nobody was hit.

The defendant then fled in his car. Downingtown police officers put out flash information about the defendant. The defendant was apprehended in West Goshen Township, where he had flipped his car. The police recovered the defendant's gun from the vehicle. The gun contained six spent shell casings. The defendant was in possession of 36 more rounds of live ammunition.

The defendant is charged with attempted murder, witness intimidation, retaliation against a witness, and related crimes. Magisterial District Judge Thomas Tartaglio set bail at \$1,000,000 cash and the defendant was remanded to Chester County Prison.

District Attorney Hogan added, "These poor kids were scared to death. This defendant is going to face the full weight of the Chester County justice system."

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

This case was investigated by the Downingtown Police Department, with assistance from the West Goshen Township Police Department, Uwchlan Township Police Department, and the District Attorney's Office. Downingtown Detective Andy Trautmann is the assigned investigator. Deputy District Attorney Deborah Ryan is the assigned prosecutor. Anybody with any information should contact Detective Trautmann at 610-269-0263.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan