

## CHESTER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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## PRESS RELEASE

## **Chesco Drug Dealer Charged With Burning Corpse of Baby**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and Pennsylvania State Police announced the arrest of William Jones and an active warrant for Anita Depedro for drug delivery and related offenses. William Jones was also arrested for concealing the death of a child and abuse of corpse. The defendants are alleged to have been dealing methamphetamine out of a trailer park in Honey Brook Township. Jones is also charged with crimes related to covering up a stillborn birth by his girlfriend, Depedro, by burning the body of the baby.

First Assistant District Attorney Michael Noone stated, "These defendants were pushing poison in the community. And when they were expecting a child they did nothing to care for the health of the child. When the child was stillborn, the father burned the baby and discarded the child like trash. This is a disturbing and horrific case."

William Jones is 49 years old. Anita Depedro is 29 years old. They lived together in Honey Brook Township, Pennsylvania.

The allegations from the criminal complaints<sup>1</sup> are as follows:

Jones and Depedro conspired to sell methamphetamine to a confidential informant on multiple occasions from June, 2019 through August, 2019. These sales took place at the trailer the defendants shared on Egan Circle in Honey Brook Township. Jones sold methamphetamine to a confidential informant on other additional dates. Jones was in possession of four ounces of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia when he was arrested on September 26, 2019. All total, Jones is alleged to have possessed over a pound of methamphetamine with the intent to deal it. Depedro is alleged to have conspired with Jones to deliver 5 ounces of methamphetamine.

On March 27, 2019, the Pennsylvania State Police received a report of an anonymous call to Chester County Children and Youth Services reporting that Depedro gave birth to a stillborn child at the residence in Honey Brook Township and that Jones, the biological father, burned the child's body in a burn barrel on the property before burying the remains in an unmarked grave at an unknown location.

Subsequent investigation included multiple interviews, social media searches, a review of Children and Youth records, and the execution of a search warrant at the property in Honey Brook. The child's remains were never recovered.

Jones is charged with possession with intent to deliver, conspiracy, and other charges related to his alleged methamphetamine sales. Jones is also charged with concealing the death of a child, conspiracy, and abuse of corpse. Jones is currently in Chester County Prison.

Depedro is charged with possession with intent to deliver, conspiracy, and other charges related to her alleged methamphetamine sales. There is an active warrant for Depedro.

Chester County First Assistant District Attorney Michael Noone added, "We have seen a significant increase in methamphetamine in recent years. This case is a stark reminder of the dangers of meth. Law enforcement will continue to work together to fight this poison in our community."

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

This case was investigated by the Chester County Detectives and the Pennsylvania State Police. Any person with information regarding these incidents should contact either the Chester County Detectives at (610) 344-6866 or the Pennsylvania State Police Embreeville barracks at (610) 486-6280.

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Approved for release:

Michael Noone First Assistant District Attorney