

Chester County District Attorney's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

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August 4, 2021

WEST CHESTER MAN CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ABUSE OF ANOTHER CHILD

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announces the second arrest of Russell Thayer Bullitt, 76, for the sexual abuse of another child under the age of ten in his West Chester home. The defendant is charged with 20 counts each of Aggravated Indecent Assault of a Child, Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Corruption of Minors, and related offenses.

The defendant was previously arrested on May 1, 2021, for the sexual abuse of a different child who was also under the age of ten in his West Chester home for multiple incidents occurring over a four-year span. At that time, he was charged with 50 counts each of Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse with a Victim Under 13, Unlawful Contact with a Minor, Aggravated Indecent Assault of a Child, and related charges.

The defendant is held without bail at Chester County Prison.

DA Deb Ryan said, "What the defendant did to these two children is reprehensible, and my office will prosecute him to the fullest extent of the law. The courage of the victims to disclose their abuse is remarkable for their young ages. Adults must ensure that our children are kept safe by educating themselves and their children about safe and not safe touches. Taking a free Stewards of Children class is an important step toward learning about these safeguards."

The allegations in the complaint are the following¹:

On April 28, 2021, Chester County Detectives learned that the defendant had sexually abused a child inside his home when the child was between five and nine years of age. The victim revealed the abuse because the child was concerned the defendant was grooming another child to be sexually abused.

The parents of the second victim contacted investigators on July 21, 2021, after the child revealed to them that she had been sexually abused on multiple occasions when she was at the defendant's house. The abuse occurred between 2020 and 2021.

Chester County Detectives are investigating. Assistant District Attorney Sam Bonsall is the prosecutor.

Call Childline at 1-800-932-0313 if you suspect a child is being abused.

Learn to recognize, react, report child sexual abuse by taking a free virtual Stewards of Children workshop. Contact County Coordinator Katie Walters at kwalters@chesco.org or 610-344-6115 for more information.

Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney

¹ A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.