

Chester County District Attorney's Office

DEBORAH RYAN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY



201 W. Market St., Suite 4450
Post Office Box 2746
West Chester, PA 19380-0991
Phone: 610-344-6801
Fax: 610-344-5905

NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact Michelle Bjork, Director of Communications, at mbjork@chesco.org or 610-344-6820.

October 26, 2021

CHILDCARE WORKER CHARGED IN ABUSE OF 3 TODDLERS IN WESTTOWN

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and the Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police Department announce the arrest of Victoria Aronson, 36, of Brookhaven, PA, for physically abusing three children under age two who were in her care at Malvern School in Westtown Township. The defendant is charged with multiple counts of aggravated assault, endangering the welfare of children, simple assault, and related offenses. The abuse happened in late September 2021.

DA Deb Ryan said, "Parents place enormous trust in the people who care for their children, and when that is broken, it has lasting effects on families and the community. The defendant's callous treatment of three toddlers was abusive and criminal, and my office will seek justice for the victims. People who work with children have a legal and moral responsibility to report any abuse and we will hold those accountable for failing to protect any children."

The allegations in the complaint are the following¹:

On October 7, 2021, Westtown-East Goshen Regional Police became aware of several child abuse complaints that took place at Malvern School on East Pleasant Grove Road in West Chester. The complaints occurred between September 29-30,

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

2021 and involved three victims between the ages of fourteen and sixteen months.

Investigators learned the defendant, who worked as a caretaker in a class for ages 1 to 1½, used unreasonable force while interacting with three children. In one instance, investigators were told, the defendant grabbed a victim who was crying by her upper arms and slammed her onto a wooden changing table, then held the child's torso down with one arm while yelling and cursing at her. The defendant then grabbed another child and did the same thing before slamming both children onto the floor and yelled at them again. Witnesses heard the defendant scream that the children needed to stop crying and to "shut the fuck up."

An eyewitness stated that she observed the defendant hold one of the victims in a headlock position, causing the victim's head to hit the door. On another occasion, the defendant slammed a different victim to the ground outside with such force that the child began to cry.

One victim was taken to the pediatrician with bruising and a cut under an eye.

Westtown East Goshen Police are investigating. Call Detective Michael Meiswich at 610-696-9600 if you have additional information about this case. ADA Zachary Yurick is the assigned prosecutor.

Call Childline if you suspect child abuse: 1-800-932-0313.

Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney