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PRESS RELEASE

**Defendant Feeds Crystal Meth to Child,
Leaves Children Alone in Car With Gun**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announced the arrest of defendant Harold Nuse of Honey Brook, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The defendant initially was arrested for leaving three young children in a running vehicle with a gun while he went shopping. A subsequent investigation revealed that the defendant had been feeding crystal methamphetamine to at least one of the children.

District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "Guns and drugs don't mix with children. Instead of caring for these children, the defendant was putting them at grave risk of death or serious injury. We are lucky the police intervened."

The defendant is 43 years old. He resided at 47 Egan Circle, Honey Brook, Pennsylvania.

The facts alleged in the criminal complaints are as follows:¹

On December 24, 2018, at approximately 3:45 a.m., Pennsylvania State Police Troopers were in a Walmart parking lot conducting a DUI stop in West

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

Sadsbury Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The Troopers noticed an unrelated 2000 Chevrolet Silverado vehicle parked but running in the parking lot. The temperature was near freezing and the Troopers later determined that the vehicle had been left running at that location for over an hour.

When the Troopers approached the Silverado, they discovered nobody in the front seat. However, left in plain view on the center console was a 9mm pistol. The ammunition for the pistol was above the front seat visor.

In the back of the Silverado, left completely unsupervised, were three young boys. The boys were ages 11, 8, and 6. The boys were asleep. When the Troopers woke them up, the boys stated that they did not know where their parents were or when they would be coming back.

At approximately 4:15 a.m., the defendant and his wife, Brandy Nuse, exited the Walmart and returned to the Silverado. They claimed that they were shopping in the Walmart. The defendant and his wife are the caretakers for the three boys. Brandy Nuse is the mother of all three boys. The defendant is her husband, but is not the biological father of the boys.

The defendant and his wife were arrested. The boys were turned over to family members.

The boys were subsequently interviewed by the Chester County Detectives Child Abuse Unit, together with PSP. One of the boys reported that the defendant had been feeding him crystal methamphetamine. Crystal meth is a purified form of a stimulant that is crystalline in appearance and has a bitter taste. The child reported that on at least five occasions, the defendant took him to a shed on the defendant's property in Honey Brook and made him stick a chunk of crystal meth under his tongue to dissolve. The child described the meth as looking like a "weird gem," which is consistent with the appearance of crystal meth. The child also said that the meth did not taste good, which is consistent with the bitter taste of crystal meth.

The defendant has been charged with drug delivery, endangering the welfare of children, and other offenses.² Bail was set at \$75,000 cash. The defendant has been committed to Chester County Prison.

² Brandy Nuse has been charged as a co-conspirator.

District Attorney Hogan added, “Unfortunately, crystal meth has been making a comeback in Southeastern Pennsylvania. Heroin dealers are now pushing their clients to crystal meth. This is a trend that law enforcement will have to address, as crystal meth use can lead to violent and irrational behavior.”

This case was investigated by the Pennsylvania State Police and Chester County Detectives. The assigned prosecutor is Deputy District Attorney Megan King. Anybody with any further information should contact Trooper Aaron Botts at 610-486-6280.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan