

# 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](mailto:mbjork@chesco.org) or 610-344-6820.

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January 24, 2022

### **DOWNINGTOWN MAN CHARGED WITH 15 COUNTS OF RAPE OF 12-YEAR-OLD**

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and Downingtown Police announce the arrest of George Berry, 70, of Downingtown, in connection to the rape of a 12-year-old child between January 2020 and December 2021 in a Downingtown home they shared. The defendant is charged with 15 counts of rape of a child, involuntary deviate sexual intercourse with a child, aggravated indecent assault of a child, and related offenses. The Houston Police Tactical Unit took the suspect into custody in Houston, Texas, on Jan. 12, 2022.

DA Deb Ryan said, "George Berry engaged in a systemic pattern of horrific abuse of a child he had a duty to protect. Now, a 12-year-old must live with the memories of suffering and harm he inflicted on her. We will prosecute this man to the fullest extent to bring justice and healing to the victim."

The allegations in the complaint are the following<sup>1</sup>:

Downingtown Police were contacted by Brandywine Hospital on Jan. 6, 2022, about the sexual assault of a 12-year-old child. The victim told police that the assault had occurred at the Downingtown home the child and mother shared with the defendant.

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<sup>1</sup> A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

On Jan. 7, 2022, a Chester County Detective assigned to the Child Abuse Unit conducted a forensic interview with the child at the Children's Advocacy Center. Police learned that the defendant had sexual contact with the victim dozens of times between January 2020 and December 2021.

Investigators tracked the defendant to Houston, where he was arrested on Jan. 12, 2022. He was extradited to Chester County on Jan. 23 and is being held at Chester County Prison on \$1 million cash bail, set by Magisterial District Judge Lauren Holt. A preliminary hearing will be held on Feb. 2, 2022.

Downingtown Police and Chester County Detectives are investigating. ADA Samuel Bonsall is the assigned prosecutor.

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

Learn to recognize, react, and respond to child sexual abuse by signing up for a free virtual Stewards of Children workshop. Contact County Coordinator Katie Walters at [kwalters@chesco.org](mailto:kwalters@chesco.org) or 610-344-6115.

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Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney