

Chester County District Attorney's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

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April 19, 2022

VALLEY FORGE MIDDLE SCHOOL JANITOR ARRESTED FOR SEXUAL ABUSE OF TWO STUDENTS

The Chester County District Attorney's Office and Tredyffrin Twp. Police announce the arrest of Rushon Drayton, 23, of Paoli, a custodian at Valley Forge Middle School, for the sexual abuse of two students ages 14 and 15. The defendant is charged with multiple counts of institutional sexual assault, indecent assault of a person under 16, unlawful contact with a minor, corruption of minors, statutory sexual assault, and other charges. He was released on \$50k bail set by MDJ Lauren Holt.

DA Deb Ryan said, "Rushon Drayton preyed upon vulnerable middle schoolers who he groomed over a period of time while working in his job as a janitor at Valley Forge Middle School. We are aware of two victims at this stage in the investigation but believe that there may be others. We urge parents to contact Tredyffrin Twp. Police Detectives at 610-644-3221 with any information about this case.

"Children deserve to be safe in schools and all adults are responsible to ensure their safety. We continue to stress the importance of reporting suspicious behavior knowing that we all must do what we can to protect our most vulnerable. We thank Tredyffrin Twp. Police for their hard work and swift apprehension of the defendant."

Tredyffrin Police Chief Mike Beaty said, “Our detectives worked quickly and diligently on this case to ensure the safety of the children at Valley Forge Middle School. We will continue to work with Tredyffrin/Easttown School District to protect all students and other potential victims.”

The allegations in the complaint are the following¹:

On April 10, 2022, the mother of a 14-year-old student at Valley Forge Middle School contacted Tredyffrin Twp. Police about inappropriate text messages sent to her daughter by the defendant known as “Shawn,” who was the school custodian.

The victim told police that “Shawn” became friendly with students over the past several months by handing out candy three to four times a week. The victim said that the defendant talked with her one-on-one in the hallway and asked for her cell phone number, which she gave to him.

The victim said the defendant then started texting and FaceTiming with her during the week, weekend, and school. On April 10, the victim’s mother checked her daughter’s cell phone and found text messages between she and a friend that had screen shots of messages from “Shawn” that were inappropriate and sexual. That’s when she contacted Tredyffrin Twp. Police.

On April 14, police became aware of a second victim whom the defendant had communicated with about sexually explicit topics. That victim told detectives that the defendant had given her a sex toy, marijuana, and other gifts. Police recovered hundreds of sexual and inappropriate text messages and photos that were sent to the second victim by the defendant.

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

Tredyffrin Twp. Police are investigating. DDA Erin O'Brien is the assigned prosecutor. If anyone has any information about this case, please contact the Tredyffrin Twp. Detectives at 610-644-3221.

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