

Chester County District Attorney's Office

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NEWS RELEASE

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VOLUNTEER COACH AT PARKESBURG POINT CHARGED WITH RAPE OF TEEN

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announces the arrest of Ameer Sutton-Best, 31, of Parkesburg, for raping a 13-year-old in July 2022, and soliciting sex, child pornography, and seeking assistance in solicitation from multiple other children. The defendant, a volunteer basketball coach at The Parkesburg Point Youth Center, is charged with rape, sexual abuse of children, corruption of minors, and related offenses. He is held at Chester County Prison on \$1 million bail set by MDJ Nancy Gill.

DA Deb Ryan said, "Ameer Sutton-Best is a child predator who preyed on young teen girls knowing their age and violating his position of trust. He had the audacity to try to buy his way out of this. Thankfully, these victims had the fortitude to report his reprehensible behavior. When the staff at The Point learned of the allegations, they immediately contacted law enforcement and Childline, which the law requires them to do as mandated reporters. While children are safer today because of this arrest, we believe there may be other victims of his out there. Anyone with information is encouraged to immediately contact Chester County Detectives."

The allegations in the complaint are the following¹:

On Aug. 10, 2022, Parkesburg Police were contacted by The Point that the defendant, a volunteer basketball coach, was reported to have had sexual contact with a 13-year-old child. During an interview with the victim, investigators learned that earlier in the summer, she received text messages from the defendant that were sexual in nature. A second child victim had provided the defendant with Victim 1's phone number.

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

Victim 1 told police that in June or July, when she and Victim 2 were together at her house, the defendant texted Victim 1, asking her to meet him. The defendant later picked up Victim 1 and drove her to a location in Parkesburg, where he ordered her into the back seat, forcibly pulled down her shorts, and raped her. The victim said that after the assault, the defendant drove her back home.

Victim 1 said she blocked the defendant on her social media accounts, but he contacted her mother. Victim 1 and her mother received phone calls and texts from acquaintances of the defendant asking them not to contact law enforcement and asking how this could “go away.”

Investigators reviewed inappropriate Snapchat messages between the defendant and Victim 2, age 13. In an interview with Victim 2, detectives learned that the defendant asked for Victim 1’s phone number and that he told the defendant Victim 1 was only 13. The defendant also sent Victim 2 pornography.

Detectives found two more victims – ages 14 and 13 – whom the defendant had sent inappropriate Snapchat messages. He asked one victim if she was into older men and asked the other victim to send him nude photos.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Sept. 22, 2022. Parkesburg Police and Chester County Detectives are investigating. ADA Christine Abatemarco is the assigned prosecutor.

If anyone has information, call Chester County Detectives at 610-344-6866.

Call Childline at 1-800-932-0313 if you suspect a child is being abused. Learn to recognize, react, and report child sexual abuse by taking a free virtual Stewards of Children workshop. Contact County Coordinator Elisa Mendoza at emendoza@chesco.org or 610-344-5576 for more information.

Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney