

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.

Oct. 26, 2022

6-YEAR-OLD CHILD ABDUCTED IN DOWNINGTOWN

The DAO and Downingtown Police announce that an Amber Alert has been issued for the abduction of 6-year-old Zoe Moss, who was last seen at East Ward Elementary School, 435 Washington Ave., Downingtown, around 6:00 p.m. on Oct. 25, 2022. Police believe the child may be at risk of harm or injury.

The child was at that location for a court-ordered, non-school-related supervised visit with her 37-year-old biological mother, Vanessa Gutshall. The supervisor of the visit reported to police that the mother fled with the child in a gray 2016 Volkswagen Jetta, license plate number KXR-3699.

DA Deb Ryan said, "It is imperative that we find Zoe Moss immediately because of the potentially dangerous situation she is in with her mother. If anyone has information on her whereabouts or that of Vanessa Gutshall, please contact law enforcement or call 911. Just because her mother is involved does not mean she is in less danger. Zoe needs the eyes and ears of every adult to bring her to safety."

Downingtown Police Chief Howard Holland said, "Law enforcement has been searching for Zoe Moss relentlessly since she was reported missing, and we will continue looking for her until she is found. But we need the public's help. Call 911 if you see this little girl, the mother, or the vehicle."

Investigators learned that Gutshall was last seen between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m. on Oct. 25 at the Rivertowne Restaurant & Bar in Wrightsville, PA, about an hour west of Downingtown near York.

Amber Alerts are issued when a child under 18 is abducted and believed to be in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death.

An arrest warrant has been issued for Vanessa Gutshall. Downingtown Police are investigating.

Call Downingtown Police with any information: 610-269-0263.

Approved for release by Deborah Ryan, District Attorney