

7/12/2005

Detectives Charge Germantown Man with Additional Child Abuse Charges

Detectives from the Family Crimes Division – Pedophile Section have placed four additional charges against a Germantown man after additional victims came forward following a June 13 press release.

In late April, Pedophile Detectives began an investigation after they were told about an incident that occurred in the summer of 2003. At that time, a Germantown man had taken a nude photograph of a 10-year-old girl, while in a park in Montgomery County. Detectives learned that the photographer, Gerald Hinson White, was a deacon at the Central Baptist Church in Derwood, Maryland, the church that the victim's family attended. With the family's permission, he had been taking pictures of the girl. In the summer of 2003, White took her to Seneca Creek State Park. While taking pictures of her, he had her remove her clothing and pose for one nude photo. As he drove the girl home, White touched her inappropriately.

In the course of the investigation, another victim was identified. In the spring of 2003, White had photographed a 12-year-old girl at his home in Germantown. During the photo session, he asked the girl to wear a negligee, rubbed her stomach, and attempted to rub her under her shirt. This victim had met White through the church and the family trusted him because of his position as a deacon in their church.

On June 13, Gerald Hinson White, 63, of the 19900 block of Appledowre Circle in Germantown, was arrested and charged with two counts of Child Abuse, Second-degree Assault and Third-degree Sex Offense.

Because Gerald White had regular contact with families at his church and as an independent professional photographer based in the Olney area, detectives wanted to make certain that there were no other victims. They asked anyone who had concerns or information to provide to call them.

As a result of the continuing investigation, it was learned that between June 1 and August 31, 1998, Gerald White took nude and partially clad photos of a 15-year-old girl at his Germantown residence. When he drove her to other locations throughout Montgomery County for other photo sessions, he would often offer to buy her alcoholic beverages.

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After the report of White's arrest, a woman told detectives that between December of 1973 and December of 1975, while she was 13- to 15-years old, Gerald White had touched her inappropriately while she worked for him at a now-closed restaurant in the 19200 block of Montgomery Village Avenue in Montgomery Village area. He would also inappropriately touch her as he drove a church bus, picking up and dropping off parishioners throughout Montgomery County.

Another former employee of the same Montgomery Village restaurant told detectives that between July of 1978 and July of 1979, while she was 13- to 14-years-old, she was inappropriately touched by Gerald White. She had never disclosed this information until she saw White's picture in the news.

A former co-worker of White's at a photography studio said that between April 1 and June 30 of 2004, White took pictures of an 11-year-old girl at her home in Wheaton. During one of the sessions, he had the girl pose wearing only a button-down shirt that was mostly unbuttoned and wearing just a bath towel, both exposing her partially naked body.

This morning, Gerald White was charged with four additional counts of Child Abuse and remains in the Montgomery County Correctional Facility on a bond of \$500,000. Anyone else who has concerns or information to provide about Gerald White should call Detective Corporal Frank Darley at 240-773-5431.

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Contact: Media Services Division Phone: 240.773.5030

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