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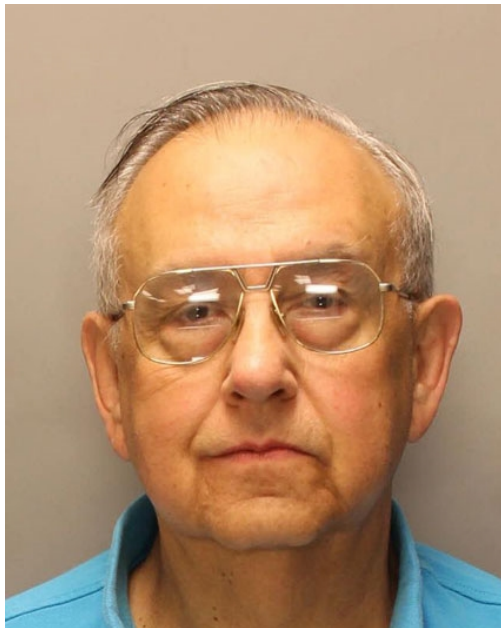
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 24, 2015

Lansdale Counselor Arrested For Inappropriate Touching Of Teenage Client



Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Upper Gwynedd Township Chief David Duffy announce the March 19, 2015 arrest of Bernard Rivas, 73, of the Lansdale section of Upper Gwynedd Township, Montgomery County, for Endangering the Welfare of Children, Corruption of Minors and Indecent Assault.

The investigation revealed Bernard Rivas is a licensed counselor, who sees clients in his home office. The defendant's internet advertisements specifically mention his counseling work regarding teens in crisis.

On Friday, February 27, 2015, the Upper Gwynedd Township Police Department received a complaint of Rivas inappropriately touching a 14 year-year-old female victim. This victim had repeatedly been in his presence as a counseling client.

The victim was interviewed by a forensic interviewer at the Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center. During the interview she provided details of the assaults on her at the hands of Rivas.

The victim indicated that Rivas repeatedly touched her on intimate areas of her body. She was able to surreptitiously photograph Rivas' touching her on two occasions. She also provided a detailed description of Rivas' inappropriate communications and actions towards her over an extended period of time.

As a result of the details provided by the victim members of the Upper Gwynedd Township Police Department and the Montgomery County Detective Bureau initiated a joint investigation.

On Thursday, March 19, 2015 Rivas was arrested for the three crimes listed above and arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Robert Sobeck. Rivas posted 10% of the \$5,000 bail amount and was released. He was ordered to have no unsupervised contact with children. His preliminary hearing is scheduled before Judge Sobeck on Monday, March 30, 2015 at 1:00 PM.

If anyone has information relating to the defendant's activities, they are encouraged to call the Upper Gwynedd Township Police (215-699-5861) or the Montgomery County Detective Bureau (610-278-3368).

Approved for release:

Risa Vetri Ferman

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.