



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Man Charged with Sexually Assaulting Teen *Police Remind Parents about Internet Safety*

Howard County Police are urging parents to review Internet safety precautions with their teens after recently charging a man with sexually assaulting a teenage girl he met online. Andrew Patrick Price of 806 Castle Point Terrace in Hoboken, N.J., was arrested at his residence and charged with four counts of sex offense after arranging a meeting with a 13-year-old Columbia girl.

In June, the teenage victim and her parent reported to police that the girl recently had engaged in sexual activity with Price. The victim told police she met Price on the Internet and agreed to meet him in person in Columbia. She reported that Price picked her up near her home around 1 a.m. on June 19 and drove to a nearby location, where the two engaged in sex acts. She told police that Price dropped her off at home after the encounter.

Two days later, the girl's parent discovered her on-line "instant messages" with Price and reported the incident to police. Since then, detectives have investigated the case, which lead to the recent charges filed against Price.

Police are encouraging parents to talk with children and teens about the potential dangers of the Internet. Remind children that they should *never*:

- give out personal information online, including name, address, phone number, password, school name or parent's name;
- agree to meet face to face with someone they have met online; or
- send photos of themselves without a parent's permission.

Parents should monitor the time their children spend online. If a child or teenager becomes uneasy or defensive when a parent enters the room or lingers, it could be a sign of inappropriate use of the Internet.

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