



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: July 29, 2003

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### **Police Investigating Sexual Assault of Child**

Howard County Police are investigating a report that a 5-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by a stranger Sunday afternoon. Police were contacted late yesterday by the child's parents after the girl told them about the incident.

The child reported to police that she and her 11-year-old brother were riding bikes at Jackson Pond in the Long Reach area of Columbia when they were approached by an unknown man around 2:00 p.m. The girl told detectives that the man distracted her brother by inviting him to fish and then took her to a nearby secluded area where he sexually assaulted her.

The subject is described as a male with light brown skin, short to medium black hair, 5'6" to 6 feet tall, medium build, wearing black or dark blue shorts, a red sleeveless shirt and tennis shoes.

The suspect's description was independently corroborated by the girl's brother and a witness who observed the man at the pond.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Howard County Police at 410-313-3200.

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