



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

For Release: October 4, 2006

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Police Arrest Suspect in Sexual Assault of Child

Howard County Police arrested a man yesterday in the sexual assault of a 12-year-old girl in Elkridge. David Fernando Garcia, 23, of 941 West Capital Ave. in West Sacramento, Calif., was charged with multiple counts of sex offenses and assault.

The girl told police Monday that an unknown man approached her and two friends around 2 p.m. at a shopping center in the 6500 block of Waterloo Road. He struck up a conversation with the girls and told them he was selling magazines in the area.

The girls reported that they walked away from the man, but he followed them to a wooded area. Two of the girls, ages 12 and 13, were able to flee after the suspect began kissing and touching them. The 12-year-old victim, who was unable to flee, reported that the man forced her to engage in a sex act.

The two other girls returned with a group of friends to help the victim. The group confronted the man and he fled.

Detectives received an anonymous tip from a caller after releasing a composite sketch of the suspect. Through investigation, police learned Garcia was at a Wal-Mart store in 6400 block of Dobbin Rd. in Columbia yesterday. The officers approached Garcia and saw that he had a tattoo that matched the description of a tattoo provided by victim. Garcia was taken into custody at that time.

Garcia was charged with committing a sex offense in the second and third degree and three counts of second degree assault. Through investigation, police learned Garcia travels from state to state selling products door to door.

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