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HIV-positive man accused of raping boy on Appalachian Trail

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Jason Henry Cochrane

An HIV-positive man is accused of raping a boy on the Appalachian Trail.

Jason Henry Cochrane, 43, of Millersville, Md., is charged with sex abuse of a minor, second-degree rape and multiple other counts, according to Washington County District Court records.

During a hearing Monday in district court, Deputy State's Attorney Joseph Michael said Cochrane had no previous criminal history.

But Cochrane was fingerprinted in 1985, Michael said, so he could serve with the Boy Scouts of America.

“He’s so dangerous, he shouldn’t be released under any circumstances,” Michael said.

Judge Terry A. Myers then ordered that Cochrane continue to be held without bond at the Washington County Detention Center.

Maryland Natural Resources Police wrote in court documents that officers were called Saturday at 9 a.m. to the Appalachian Trail near the Pine Knob Shelter, which is on the eastern edge of Greenbrier State Park.

The documents said an officer made contact with Cochrane and an adolescent boy, who were in a camping tent north of the shelter.

After receiving consent to search the tent, the officer allegedly found a hypodermic needle, a glass pipe and a plastic bag containing suspected crystal methamphetamine.

The search of the tent also produced condoms, several sex toys and more than 30 pairs of men’s and women’s undergarments, the documents said.

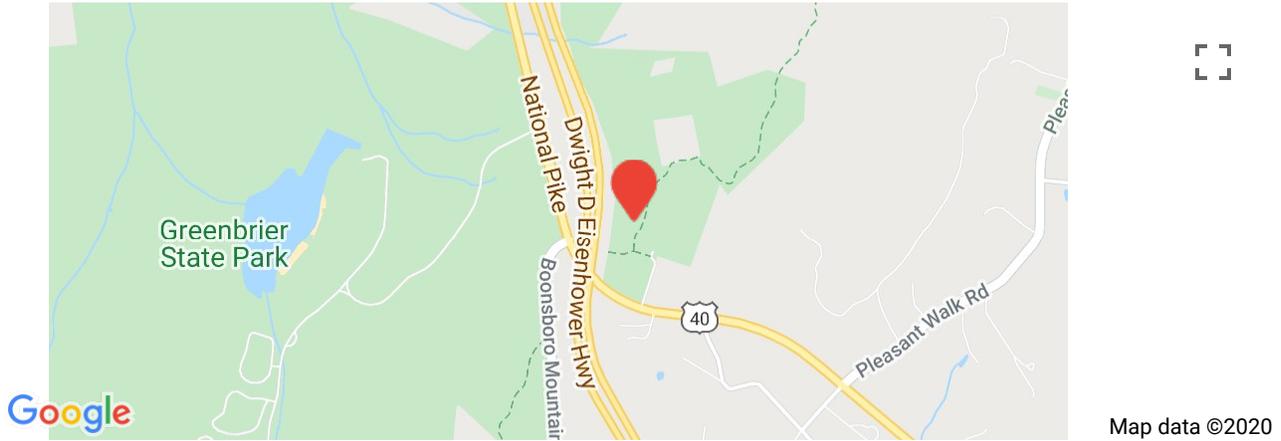
The officer said Cochrane was taken to Meritus Medical Center near Hagerstown because he was having spasms. The boy also was taken to the hospital to be interviewed by Child Protective Services.

Authorities obtained a warrant and took samples of Cochrane’s DNA. The results confirmed the two had sex.

Cochrane allegedly admitted that he slept naked with the boy in the tent.

Investigators said in the documents that Cochrane is HIV-positive and gave the boy crystal meth during their camping trip.

Cochrane's preliminary hearing is scheduled for Oct. 24.



Dan Dearth

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