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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Man Charged with Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Endangering the Welfare of a Child



Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman and Upper Perkiomen Police Chief Michael S. Devlin announce the arrest of Nicholas Kernechel. Kernechel was charged with Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and related offenses.

On Sunday, July 19, 2015, a woman brought her 4-year old son, JN, to the Upper Perk Police Department to report child abuse. At the time of their arrival, JN had visible, severe facial and dental injuries, including an extremely swollen upper lip, a bloody upper gum line, and bruises all over his face. JN was also missing three upper teeth. His mother was visibly upset and quickly gave law enforcement officers a plastic bag containing JN's three missing teeth. The teeth were bloody but intact, from the tooth through the top of the root.

Through the course of their investigation, law enforcement officers learned that JN was in the sole care of Kernechel during the overnight hours of July 18 into July 19 when the injuries to his face and mouth occurred. In addition, investigators learned that after JN was injured, Kernechel left JN in his bed, bleeding and crying, and failed to tell his mother about his injuries when she returned to the apartment in the early morning hours of July 19. JN did not receive any kind of help for his injuries until his mother went into his room on the morning of July 19 and found him asleep on the floor, lying on top of dried blood.

Investigators also learned about other injuries JN had received dating back to April 2015, including bite-mark bruises to his arms. When asked about these injuries and the July 18-19 injuries to his mouth and face, JN indicated the Defendant did it. Specifically, he told investigators that the Defendant "hit and take them (his teeth) out".

Nicholas Kernechel was arraigned before District Judge Catherine Hummel-Fried. Kernechel's bail was set at 100,000 cash with the conditions that he have no contact with JN or JN's mother. Kernechel's preliminary hearing is scheduled for Thursday, October 1 at 10:00 a.m. in front of DJ Hummel-Fried.

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.