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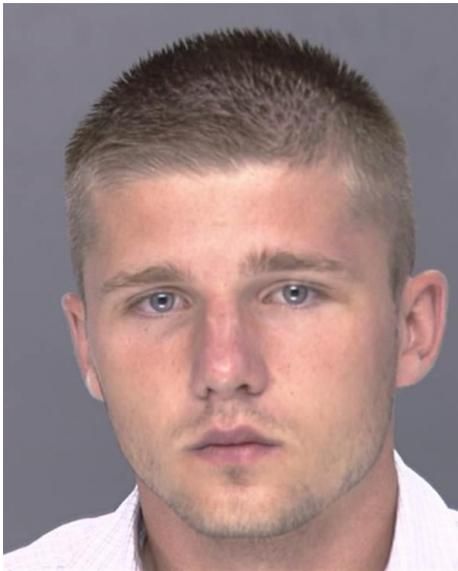
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### **“AMERICA’S MOST WANTED” MONTGOMERY COUNTY FUGITIVE GERARD ZALEWSKI CAUGHT IN ENGLAND FOR SIMILAR RAPE OF CHILD CRIME**



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Dec. 7, 2016) — Convicted child predator Gerard Zalewski, who the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office has been seeking since he skipped bail in April 2006 prior to his sentencing hearing, has been located in Lancashire, England after he was convicted for a similar crime and sentenced there today to 12 years in jail, District Attorney Kevin R. Steele announced today.

“The FBI notified us today that Zalewski was sentenced today in England for committing a similar sexual crime against a child,” said Steele. “Once the defendant serves his time in England, we want him back to lock him up. This violent predator will be off of the streets for a very long time.”

Zalewski's original charges in Montgomery County stem from an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force investigation in July-August, 2004, when he had several sexually explicit Internet chats with a police officer posing as a 12-year-old. He subsequently arranged a meeting with the undercover detective posing as a girl to have sexual intercourse and was arrested on Aug. 15, 2004. The ensuing investigation revealed that he had previous sexual contact with a 13-year-old Bucks County girl he met over the Internet in June 2004 and additionally charges were filed. On November 14, 2005, Zalewski pled guilty in Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas to Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse and Criminal Attempt to Commit Involuntary Deviate Sexual Intercourse, both first-degree felonies. He failed to appear March 29, 2006 for his sentencing hearing and was sentenced in absentia to 5-20 years in state prison. New charges of Flight to Avoid Punishment and Default in Required Appearance were filed, which could add up to 14 years to his prison term. The DA's Office placed him on watch lists, including the FBI's "America's Most Wanted," sent his information to Interpol and continually sought to apprehend this dangerous criminal.

According to information posted today by the Lancashire Constabulary police (<http://bit.ly/2gCPonO>), Zalewski, now 33, was convicted of a similar crime in England. He groomed a 13-year-old victim over the Internet and manipulated the victim into sending him indecent images before arranging to meet her in a park in June 2016. Zalewski subjected his victim to sexual abuse over several hours including taping her mouth with masking tape, putting a dog collar around her neck and writing the words "rape me" on her leg. He then took pictures of her on his mobile phone.

Following the incident, Zalewski fled but was arrested in Kent on June 21, 2016 after a manhunt. He pled guilty in October to two counts of penetrative sexual activity with a child, meeting a child following sexual grooming, making indecent photographs of a child and false imprisonment. Zalewski was sentenced today to 12 years.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele