

## Judicial Conduct Board

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Richard W. Long, Chief Counsel 717-234-7911

## **Press Release**

### **November 4, 2020**

FROM: Richard W. Long

**Chief Counsel** 

**SUBJECT:** Magisterial District Judge Michael E. Schechterly

**Magisterial District Court 41-3-04** 

**Forty-first Judicial District** 

**Perry County** 

**Harrisburg.** Today the Judicial Conduct Board filed a petition in the Court of Judicial Discipline seeking an interim order directing the suspension without pay of Perry County Magisterial District Judge Michael E. Schechterly, pending final disposition of his criminal charges. The Board took this action after the Office of Attorney General charged Judge Schechterly with a felony and two misdemeanor criminal offenses on Monday. As to the pending criminal charges, Judge Schechterly enjoys the presumption of innocence unless and until he is convicted.

Please visit the Board's website at <u>www.jcbpa.org</u> (select the Resource Tab then select Press Releases in the drop down menu) to view the petition.

Court filings for all cases prosecuted by the Board are available on the Court of Judicial Discipline website at http://www.pacourts.us/court-of-judicial-discipline.

### **Counsel:**

Representing the Judicial Conduct Board: Colby J. Miller, Deputy Counsel

Representing Magisterial District Judge Michael E. Schechterly: TBD

**Contact:** Richard W. Long, Chief Counsel

RECEIVED AND FILED

NOV 4 2020

IN RE:

COURT OF JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Michael E. Schechterly, Esq. Magisterial District Judge

Magisterial District Court 41-3-04

Perry County

6 JD 2020

### PETITION FOR RELIEF FOR INTERIM SUSPENSION WITHOUT PAY

AND NOW, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020, comes the Judicial Conduct Board of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Board), by and through undersigned counsel, and files this Petition For Relief For Interim Suspension Without Pay pursuant to Rule 701 of the Court of Judicial Discipline Rules of Procedure, and in support thereof, avers the following:

 The Pennsylvania Constitution provides this Court with the authority to impose interim suspension as follows:

Prior to a hearing, the court may issue an interim order directing suspension, with or without pay, of any justice, judge or justice of the peace against whom formal charges have been filed with the court by the board or against whom has been filed an indictment or information charging a felony. An interim order under this paragraph shall not be considered a final order from which an appeal may be taken.

Pa. Const, Art. V, § 18(d)(2).

From approximately January 2, 2012, until the present, Judge Michael E.
 Schechterly, served continuously as the duly elected Magisterial District Judge of Magisterial District Court 41-3-04, Perry County.

- 3. By criminal complaint filed November 2, 2020, at *Commonwealth v. Michael E. Schechterly*, MJ-092020-CR-0482-2020, the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General (OAG) filed criminal charges against Judge Schechterly stemming from a criminal investigation conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police. A true and correct copy of the criminal complaint is attached hereto as Attachment A, made a part hereof, and incorporated herein by reference as though set forth in full.
- 4. The OAG charged Judge Schechterly with the following offenses: (1) unlawful contact with minor, 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6318(a)(1), a felony of the third degree; (2) corruption of minors, 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 6301(a)(1)(i), a misdemeanor of the first degree; (3) indecent assault of a child 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 3126(a)(7), a misdemeanor of the first degree.
- 5. The allegations supporting the felony charge and the misdemeanor charges pending against Judge Schechterly undermine both public confidence in the judiciary and its reputation. If Judge Schechterly is permitted to continue participating in cases before Magisterial District Court 41-3-04 during the pendency of these charges, the public's confidence in the judiciary will continue to erode.
- 6. At Judge Schechterly's preliminary arraignment, Magisterial District Judge Jonathan R. Birbeck denied Judge Schechterly bail, reasoning that he is a danger to himself and the public. Judge Schechterly is currently incarcerated in the Cumberland County Prison.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this Honorable Court immediately enter an interim order suspending Judge Schechterly without pay based on the felony and misdemeanor charges filed against him and to grant such other relief as may be deemed appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD W. LONG

Chief Counsel

DATE: November 4, 2020 BY:

Colby J. Miller Deputy Counsel

Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 311599

Judicial Conduct Board Pennsylvania Judicial Center

601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500

P.O. Box 62525 Harrisburg, PA 17106 (717) 234-7911

IN RE:

Michael E. Schechterly, Esq. Magisterial District Judge Magisterial District Court 41-3-04 Perry County

6 JD 2020

### **VERIFICATION**

I, Colby J. Miller, Deputy Counsel to the Judicial Conduct Board, verify that the facts set forth in the foregoing petition are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I understand that the statements made in this petition are subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S.A. § 4904, regarding unsworn falsification to authorities.

November 4, 2020

By: Colby J. Miller

Deputy Counsel

Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 311599

Judicial Conduct Board Pennsylvania Judicial Center

601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500

P.O. Box 62525

Harrisburg, PA 17106

(717) 234-7911

IN RE:

Michael E. Schechterly, Esq. Magisterial District Judge Magisterial District Court 41-3-04 Perry County

6 JD 2020

## **CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE**

I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Case Records Public*Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Submitted by:

Judicial Conduct Board of Pennsylvania

Signature:

Name: Colby J. Miller

Deputy Counsel

Attorney No:

311599

IN RE:

Michael E. Schechterly, Esq. Magisterial District Judge Magisterial District Court 41-3-04 Perry County

6 JD 2020

### **PROOF OF SERVICE**

In compliance with Rule 122 of the Court of Judicial Discipline Rules of Procedure, on November 4, 2020, a copy of the Board's foregoing Petition was hand-delivered to Judge Schechterly, at the following address:

Cumberland County Prison 1101 Claremont Road Carlisle, PA 17015

DATE: November 4, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Colby J. Miller

Deputy Counsel

Pa. Supreme Court ID No. 311599

Judicial Conduct Board

Pennsylvania Judicial Center

601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 3500

P.O. Box 62525

Harrisburg, PA 17106

(717) 234-7911

# **ATTACHMENT A**

# **ATTACHMENT A**

#### POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA COUNTY OF: PERRY (NAME and ADDRESS): 41-3-04 DEFENDANT: Magisterial District Number: SCHECHTERLY E. JONATHAN BIRBECK **MICHAEL** MDJ Name: Hon. 133 S 5TH ST Address: Gen. Last Name Middle Name First Name NEWPORT, PA 17074 22 N. 6TH ST 717-567-6365 Telephone: NEWPORT, PA 17074 717-379-4760 NCIC EXTRADITION CODE TYPE Distance: C-Misdemeanor Surrounding States 5-Felony Pend. 🔀 1-Felony Full **D-Misdemeanor No Extradition** 6-Felony Pend. Extradition Determ. 2-Felony Ltd. E-Misdemeanor Pending A-Misdemeanor Full 3-Felony Surrounding States F-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition Determ. B-Misdemeanor Limited 4-Felony No Ext. DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION Request Lab Services? Complaint/Incident Number Date Filed OTN/LiveScan Number **Docket Number** ☐YES ⊠NO PA2020-777822 11/2/20 /沢-482-20 Co-Defendant(s) Add'l DOB POB PA DOB 07/04/1962 **GENDER** Last Name: Middle Name: 🔀 Male First Name: AKA 🔲 Female Unknown Native American 🔲 Black RACE Asian Unknown Non-Hispanic **ETHNICITY** Hispanic 🔀 BRO (Brown) PLE (Purple) RED (Red / Aubn.) BLU (Blue) SDY (Sandy) HAIR COLOR GRY (Gray) PNK (Pink) GRN (Green) XXX (Unk. / Bald) WHI (White) ONG (Orange) BLK (Black) BLN (Blonde / Strawberry) GRY (Gray) GRN (Green) BLU (Blue) 🔲 BRO (Brown) EYE COLOR BLK (Black) XXX (Unknown) MUL (Multicolored) PNK (Pink) MAR (Maroon) HAZ (Hazei) WEIGHT (lbs.) 180 DNA 🗌 YES 🔯 NO **DNA Location** Ft. HEIGHT In. **MNU Number** FBI Number 11 5 YES X NO Defendant Fingerprinted Fingerprint Classification: DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION School Veh. Oth, NCIC Veh. Code Registration Sticker (MM/YY) Comm'l Veh. Ind. Reg. Plate # State Hazmat same as Def. Color Style Model Make VIN Year Office of the Attorney for the Commonwealth Approved Disapproved because: DJD/s/ DANIEL J. DYE - ATTORNEY GENERAL 00624056/10310 and 00678079/11121 I, CPL KYLE TOBIN and TPR, TRISHA CAMPBELL PAPSP1800 of the Pennsylvania State Police, Troop H. Newport

do hereby state: (check appropriate box)

1. X I accuse the above named defendant who lives at the address set forth above

☐ I accuse the defendant whose name is unknown to me but who is described as \_

☐ I accuse the defendant whose name and popular designation or nickname is unknown to me and whom I have therefore designated

as John Doe or Jane Doe. with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at:

(Subdivision Code)

22 N. 6TH ST, NEWPORT BOROUGH (Place-Political Subdivision)

in PERRY County

(County Code)

on or about 2011-2012 (Offense Date)



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I (mi ind PA	Acts of the accused associated with this Offense:  IN THAT, on or about said date, THE DEFENDANT did have indecent contact with a complainant, namely minor child identified as K.C.K 10 to 12 YOA at the time of the offense), or did cause the complainant to have indecent contact with the defendant, without the complainant's consent, in violation of Section 3126(a)(1) of the PA Crimes Code. To WIT: The DEFENDANT did touch the minor child's penis / genital area and/or cause the child to touch the DEFENDANT's penis / genital area.														
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Docket Number:	Date Filed:	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number PA2020-777822
Defendant Name	First: MICHAEL	Middle: E.	Last: SCHECHTERLY

- 2. I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons be issued and that the defendant be required to answer the charges I have made.
- I verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S.§4904) relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.
- 4. This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 5
- 5. I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

The acts committed by the accused, as listed and hereafter, were against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and were contrary to the Act(s) of the Assembly, or in violation of the statutes cited.

(Before a warrant of arrest can be issued, an affidavit of probable cause must be completed, sworn to before the issuing authority, and attached.)

NOVEMBER 2, 2020

AND NOW, on this date, Nov 2, 2020

I certify that the complaint has been properly completed and verified. An affidavit of probable cause must be completed before a warrant can be issued.

1.12

(Naglaterial District Court Number)

(Issuing Authorsy)



Docket Number:	Date Filed:	OTN/LiveScan Number:		Complaint/Incident Number
CR-482-20	11/2/20	4929903-2	)	PA2020-777822
Defendant Name:	First:	, ,	Middle:	Last:
Delendant Name:	Michael		E.	SCHECHTERLY

### **AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE**

Your affiants for this arrest warrant are Pennsylvania State Troopers. Corporal Kyle Tobin and Trooper Trisha Campbell are both currently assigned to the Pennsylvania State Police, Newport Station, Criminal Investigation Unit. Your affiants have been so employed for a combined total of twenty-five years, with over ten years' experience as criminal investigators. Both affiants have extensive experience as well as training in criminal investigation. Your affiants have successfully investigated and arrested over one hundred persons for violations of criminal law in Pennsylvania, including a variety of sex crimes involving children. Both affiants have conducted successful investigations that have led to the arrest and prosecution of offenders for major crimes to include Rape, Sexual Assault, Murder / Criminal Homicide. The facts set forth in this affidavit are true and correct to the best of each affiant's knowledge and belief.

The initial complaint originated in 2015 as it was reported the Judge Michael SCHECHTERLY had young boys spending the night at his Magisterial District Court Office located at 133 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St, Newport Borough, Perry County. Through the course of that investigation it was discovered that Judge SCHECHTERLY had four (4) young boys spending the night at his office on 8/12/15 from 2150 hour until the next morning at 0700 hours. It was also reported that Judge SCHECHTERLY had pornographic videos in his office. Search warrants were obtained for Judge SCHECHTERLY's office and personal residence also located in Newport Borough. Notable videos depicted young females engaged in BDSM type sexual activity and appeared as being sexually assaulted or abused was found on DVD's in the Judge's Office. Additionally, surveillance video was obtained and material concerning Royal Rangers was found in Judge SCHECHTERLY's office desk. In consultation with the Perry County District Attorney's Office no charges were filed at that time.

However, on 3/2/19 the Pennsylvania State Police at Newport again received information from the Perry County District Attorney's Office that initiated a criminal investigation into Judge Michael SCHECHTERLY

WE, <u>CPL KYLE TOBIN and TPR. TRISHA CAMPBELL</u>, BEING DULY SWORN ACCORDING TO THE LAW, DEPOSE AND SAY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE FOREGOING AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF.

POLICY OF THE UNIFIED JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF PENNSYLVANIA INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTS DIFFERENTLY THAN NON-CON	THAT REQUIRE FILING CONFIDENTIAL
	(Signature of Affiant)
Sworn to me and subscribed before me this 2 day of	NOV 2/20
Date	, Magisterial District Judge
My commission expires first Monday of January, 2021	



# POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AFFIDAVIT CONTINUATION PAGE

Docket Number:	Date Filed:	OTN/LiveScan Number:		Complaint/Incident Number PA2020-777822
Defendant Name:	First: Michael		Middle: E.	Last: SCHECHTERLY

## AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE CONTINUATION

having inappropriate contact with minor children at his Newport Borough residence and district court office. The District Attorney's office had received a complaint from a William BENNER.

William BENNER was interviewed in reference to this investigation and stated that he had suspicions that a child with special needs identifies as K.C.K. has possibly had inappropriate contact with Judge Michael SCHECHTERLY. William BENNER stated that he knew the child well and that on one instance the child had disclosed concerning behavior by Judge Michael SCHECHTERLY to him. William BENNER stated that he thought the matter needed to be investigated further by the state police and that is why he forwarded the information to the Perry County District Attorney's Office.

When asked what the concerning behavior about Judge SCHECHTERLY, BENNER stated that K.C.K. made an unprovoked statement "he is a weird guy," when talking about Judge SCHECHTERLY. BENNER further stated that K.C.K. then stated that while in Royal Rangers, SCHECHTERLY would walk around his house in his underwear, and was scratching his balls. BENNER stated that K.C.K. then stated that he told him to stop, but SCHECHTERLY kept walking and scratching.

On 4/11/19, a forensic interview was conducted at the Children's Resource Center in Harrisburg, PA by a child interview specialist. The interview was audibly and visually recorded. During that interview K.C.K. did relate that one time he saw SCHECHTERLY laying in his underwear scratching his "balls," while at SCHECHTERLY's residence. No action was taken at that time.

On 5/28/20 Pennsylvania State Police at Newport became aware of additional concerns regarding SCHECHTERLY'S ongoing contact with minors. It was determined that in addition to the previously complaints of alleged inappropriate contact and concerns regarding children having sleepovers at Judge SCHECHTERLY's office, Judge SCHECHETELY had continued to bring children to his office during the COVID-19 shut down in the early Spring of 2020.

An interview was conducted with Judge SCHECHTERLY's secretary Jamie YORK who observed two young boys at the office and became alarmed as he followed one of the boys to the bathroom and significant amount of time passed prior to returning. YORK had gone to check on the boy but met Judge SCHECHTERLY and the boy in the hallway returning from the bathroom. YORK could not identify the boys. It was learned, in this investigation, that these boys were also having sleepovers at SCHECHTERLY's residence. It was determined that these boys were not related to SCHECHTERLY.

In cooperation with the Perry County District Attorney's Office, a search warrant was obtained for the surveillance video operating in Judge SCHECHTERLY's office. On 06/03/20 at approximately 2245 hours, the search warrant was executed at 133 South 5th Street, Newport Borough for the video surveillance. Through this surveillance, it was learned that Judge SCHECHTERLY had children at his District Court Office, that are not his own nor are they of relation to SCHECHTERLY. This was outside of normal operating hours while

(Signature of Affiant)



# POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AFFIDAVIT CONTINUATION PAGE

Docket Number:	Date Filed:	OTN/LiveScan Number:		Complaint/incident Number PA2020-777822
Defendant Name:	First: Michael		Middle: E.	Last: SCHECHTERLY

## AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE CONTINUATION

no other adults were present. Judge SCHECHTERLY was found not to be conducting district court duties during these times. One of the videos observed, showed Judge SCHECHTERLY holding two male children under 10 years of age on his lap. This same video showed the one male child making attempts to remove himself from Judge SCHECHTERLY's lap while being prevented from doing so by SCHECHTERLY.

The children observed on SCHECHTERLY's lap and other videos were identified and interviewed at the Children's Resource Center in Harrisburg, PA.

On or about 6/25/20, the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General assumed jurisdiction of this matter due to SHECHTERLY'S role as a state employee and to avoid any appearance of conflict on the part of the Perry County District Attorney's Office.

On 6/30/20, Judge Michael SCHECHTERLY was interviewed at the Pennsylvania State Police Newport Station in reference to this investigation. Judge SCHECHTERLY is known to the Pennsylvania State Police as the Magisterial District Judge for District Court 41-3-04. SCHECHTERLY is known as "Commander Mike" as the Royal Ranger Leader in his church at Newport Assembly of God. SCHECHTERLY is also the Sectional Royal Ranger Commander, covering six counties in Pennsylvania and is part of the Penn-Del District. Prior to becoming the District Judge, SCHECHTERLY taught school for three years in Halifax, one year as a long-term substitute and approximately eight years at what was Perry Christian Academy. After teaching, SCHECHTERLY attended law school and became a defense attorney prior to running for Magisterial District Judge.

During this interview, SCHECHTERLY initially denied that he had juvenile males sleeping over at the district justice office and later confirmed that juvenile males in the Royal Ranger Program did sleep over at the office.

SCHECHTERLY discussed his porn addiction during this interview and stated that the 2015 investigation was a wake-up call that he needed. SCHECHTERLY stated that he joined a local support group "Genesis" through his church and has not had the desire for porn or masturbation since this time. SCHECHTERLY stated some of the porn found in 2015 was Sadomasochism in addition to the regular porn. SCHECHTERLY admitted that he was consumed by it even affecting his time, thoughts and views on women. SCHECHTERLY discussed his masturbation habits, masturbating up to several times a day, to include self-induced bondage and regularly masturbating at the district court office. When question regarding stains on surfaces in the district court he indicated those stains would likely be his semen. In the course of this conversation SHECHTERLY admitted that as an adolescent he was sexually attracted to boys. SCHECHTERLY attributed this as normal for adolescent boys to be attracted to one another as "a natural stage of growth".

When confronted with C.R.C. interview of what K.C.K. observed with SCHECHTERLY's hand being in his pants, SCHECHTERLY indicated that he could not say he had never masturbated while a child was in his care or in his home.

(Signature of Affiant)



## POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AFFIDAVIT CONTINUATION PAGE

Dacket Number: 20	Date Filed:	OTN/LiveScan Number:	Complaint/Incident Number PA2020-777822
Defendant Name:	First:	Middle:	Last:
	Michael	E.	SCHECHTERLY

### AFFIDAVIT of PROBABLE CAUSE CONTINUATION

SCHECHTERLY was asked if he has ever had sexual contact with a child. SCHECHTERLY stated that on one occasion he had a boy (approximately 12 years of age) at his house and he touched the boys crotch / groin area. SCHECHTERLY explained that the boy took his hand (SCHECHTERLY's hand) and put it on the child's crotch. SCHECHTERLY stated that he told the boy no and pulled his hand away. SCHECHTERLY then changed his story and stated that the boy took his own hand and placed it on SCHECHTERLY's crotch.

When questioned further SCHECHTERLY stated that the touching was not an accidental touch. When questioned about the identity of the boy SCHECHTERLY stated that he could not remember the boy's name but that he was 50% sure that it was K.C.K. or his older brother identified as K.K. K.K. was interviewed and denied any inappropriate behavior between himself and Judge SCHECHTERLY. K.K. stated that when Judge SCHECHTERLY stated that this touching of a child was either him or his brother K.C.K. that it had to be his younger brother K.C.K. SCHECHTERLY explained his inability to recall the specific child by stating that there have been so many boys it was difficult to recall.

On 10/8/20, K.C.K. was interviewed at the Pennsylvania State Police Newport Station in reference to this investigation. K.C.K. reiterated in this interview what he disclosed during his C.R.C. interview on 4/11/19. K.C.K. again described that he had gone to take a shower while spending the night at Judge SCHECHTERLY's residence. K.C.K. described when he came out of the shower and returned downstairs, he went into the living room where Judge SCHECHTERLY was on the couch. K.C.K. stated that he observed Judge SCHECHTERLY with his hand in his pants playing with himself / scratching himself. K.C.K. stated that SCHECHTERLY's hand was in his pants for approximately five (5) minutes.

During the initial portion of the interview K.C.K. was asked if he was ever touched in his genital area by Judge SCHECHTERLY or if he had ever touched Judge SCHECHTERLY in his genital area. K.C.K. stated that this had never happened.

K.C.K. was then shown a portion of the interview of Judge SCHECHTERLY on 6/30/20 when he admitted to the touching and named K.C.K. as the possible child that was involved. After being confronted with Judge SCHECHTERLY's admission to the touching, K.C.K. disclosed that when he and Judge SCHECHTERLY were sitting on the couch watching television. K.C.K. stated that Judge SCHECHTERLY reached over and placed his hand on K.C.K.'s privates. K.C.K.'s date of birth is 06/19/2000. He would have been 12 years old at the time of this assault.

Coupled with Judge SCHECHTERLY's admission and K.C.K.'s recollection of Judge SCHECHTERLY touching the genital area of K.C.K. an arrest warrant is being requested at this time for the accused Michael E. SCHECHTERLY.

Assistant Chief Deputy Attorney General Daniel J. Dye of the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General has reviewed the averments made within this affidavit and has approved the filing of the charges contained herein.

(Signature of Affiant)