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[Officer William D. Welch Rapes Teen, Evidence Now Missing?](#)

by [WaTcHeR](#) » 25 Jul 2007, Wed 5:24 pm

BALTIMORE - Clothing confiscated from a police officer accused of sexually assaulting a teenager at a precinct house has gone missing from the police department's evidence control unit.

Officer William D. Welch's trial on charges of second-degree rape and misconduct in office is set to start in next month in Baltimore Circuit Court.

But for more than two months, police have not been able to find Welch's clothing and that of the 16-year-old girl he is accused of assaulting inside a police station house, according Welch's defense attorney, Warren A. Brown.

The defense attorney plans to ask a judge to rule the DNA evidence that came from the now-missing items inadmissible. But prosecutors said they believe they still have a "viable case."

Welch is 41 years old and a 13-year department veteran. He has been suspended with pay since the teenager's allegation became known in July 2006.

She had been taken to the Southeastern District after being arrested by city officers on a Baltimore County warrant for prostitution.

According to court documents that include an account the girl gave after the alleged incident, Welch was alone with her in the police interview room. He flirted with the girl, confronted her about marijuana he said he found in her bag and asked her to have sex. She complied but told Baltimore County police about the incident when she was taken there, the documents state.

Lawyers on both sides became aware of the missing evidence shortly before an earlier trial date. At a May 15 hearing, Assistant State's Attorney Temmi Rollock revealed to Circuit Judge John M. Glynn, "there is some evidence that needs to be located."

"Apparently evidence control has misplaced some of the evidence," Rollock told the judge. Glynn called the situation "depressing" and ordered the lawyers to reschedule the trial for Aug. 6.

Since that hearing, there has been no sign of the evidence.

Police spokesman Matt Jablow said the department is investigating the situation internally.

Brown describe the missing evidence situation "a blunder."

"I am not reading anything sinister into it," he said. "I have been around long enough to have heard accounts where evidence was lost or misplaced. It happens."

[http://www.examiner.com/a-831721~Eviden ..._teen.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-831721~Eviden..._teen.html)

"Cops that lie, need to die!" A police officer that lies to get an arrest or send someone to prison should be shot.

"In the U.S., a cop with a gun can commit the most heinous crime and be given the benefit of the doubt."

"The U.S. Government does not have rights, it has privileges delegated to it by the people."



[WaTcHeR](#)