

# AIDS activist identified as 'sex predator' of kids

## Accused of abusing 9-year-old girl

By David Dishneau  
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FREDERICK, Md. — An AIDS activist accused of sexually abusing a 9-year-old girl and possibly infecting her with HIV was a convicted pedophile known to police as "a sexual predator of children," according to court records.

Some parents in his downtown Frederick neighborhood said yesterday that they considered Lloyd Biggus a threat and knew he babysat at least eight children in his rented row house.

"Everybody knows who he is," said Gail Thomas, a neighborhood resident. "He was a bad person. Whatever happens to him, he deserves it."

Investigators said they were testing Biggus' blood to determine if he indeed carries the virus that causes AIDS, as he has claimed. Police also said they were investigating whether other children in his care were assaulted.

Meanwhile, Biggus, 39, remained in the Frederick County jail in lieu of \$150,000 bond. He is charged with sodomy, second-degree sexual offense, unnatural and perverted practices and first-degree assault.

A retired police officer described Biggus in a court document as "a sexual predator of children." He was convicted twice before of sex offenses, including an assault on a 13-year-old boy whom

he threatened with a carpet knife in 1987. He served about eight years of a 10-year sentence and was released in February 1996.

He purportedly assaulted the girl in his home around Sept. 15, two months after his probation for the 1987 offense ended.

The girl's family plans to have her tested soon for HIV, according to Assistant State's Attorney Lindell Angel.

"Obviously, they're going through a lot," she said.

According to court records, the victim was a friend of one of Biggus' grandchildren who lived at his house. She had gone there after school to spend the night, according to the charging documents.

The girl reported the assault to her mother in March, after hearing family members discussing the difference between good and bad touching, according to court records.

There were no witnesses to the purported assault, which could make the case hard to prosecute, Frederick County State's Attorney Scott Rolle said.

Biggus resigned around April 1 from the People With AIDS Committee of Maryland, a Frederick-based organization he co-founded with neighbor Stephanie Schwartzbeck.

Mrs. Schwartzbeck said she has known Biggus for more than two years and was shocked by his arrest.