



**pennsylvania**  
STATE POLICE

**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 22, 2021**

**State Police Announce Arrest of Somerset County District Attorney**

**Windber, PA** – Somerset County District Attorney Jeffrey Lynn Thomas was arrested today and charged with Rape, Indecent Assault, Strangulation, Simple Assault, and Criminal Trespass following an investigation conducted by the Pennsylvania State Police into an incident that occurred in Windber Borough, Somerset County on September 18, 2021. Charges were filed in Somerset County before Magisterial District Judge William Seger.

Mr. Thomas was arraigned at 8:15 p.m. before on-call Magisterial District Judge Douglas Bell. He was remanded to the Cambria County Prison in lieu of \$5,000.00 monetary bail.

On September 21, 2021, members of the Pennsylvania State Police began an investigation into a sexual assault reported to have occurred on September 18, 2021 at approximately 11:00 p.m. at a residence in Windber Borough, Somerset County.

Upon investigation, troopers determined that Mr. Thomas entered the home of the victim, an adult female acquaintance, without permission and remained there after being told to leave. Mr. Thomas is accused of then sexually and physically assaulting the female victim inside the residence.

A preliminary hearing is scheduled for September 29 at 11:00 a.m. before Magisterial District Judge William Seger.

This is an ongoing investigation and additional information will be released as appropriate.

The following statement was issued by Attorney General Josh Shapiro:

“The charges this defendant is facing for a violent attack are deeply disturbing. Mr. Thomas is entrusted by the public to uphold the law and serve as a voice for victims. I commend the bravery of the victim that has come forward — that is never an easy thing to do, especially when your abuser is a powerful elected official. Today is a reminder that no one is above the law,” said Attorney General Josh Shapiro.

Members of the Troop A, Ebensburg Criminal Investigation Unit were assisted by the Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation, the Cambria County District Attorney’s Office, and the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

Anyone with information that may assist with this investigation is strongly encouraged to contact Troop A, Ebensburg at 814-471-6500.

Reference CAD Number: PA2021-1289416; Investigating Officer: Cpl. Matthew Auker

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