

# Alleged pot-growing setup vented into child's room (Updated)

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AMITY — Police serving a warrant for a probation violation Monday discovered a marijuana grow operation being vented into a 3-year-old's bedroom, a poisonous rattlesnake and a quantity of drug paraphernalia, including needles allegedly used for heroin consumption.

Joseph Perry Gresko, 38, of 339 Amity Park Road, was taken into custody by members of Amity Township Police and the Montgomery County Sheriff's office for a probation violation Monday. When officials took him into custody from his Amity residence, he had the 3-year-old child of his girlfriend, who he lives with, in his care.

Officials entered Gresko's residence for a protective sweep and observed "a very strong odor of marijuana," according to court records. Officials discovered a marijuana grow box with grow lights and heaters, eight marijuana "clone" plants and one large suspected marijuana "mother" plant from which the clones were cut.

Additionally, police observed "syringes and spoons containing drug residue," in the residence, according to court documents.

When police spoke with Gresko, he agreed to give a statement, according to court papers. Gresko told police he found a marijuana plant in the field next door and raised it. Gresko said he purchased a growing light and other items used to grow the marijuana plant and then cut several clone plants from the mother plant.

Gresko allegedly admitted that he smokes marijuana and that he was the only one in the residence growing the plants, court papers indicate. He also admitted to using a fake name, "Dodger O'Neil," and said he used the name to sign the lease for the apartment.

When police spoke with Gresko's girlfriend, she advised them to "be careful while searching" areas of the residence Gresko used because Gresko uses heroin and might have his needles stored in hidden places, court papers indicate.

Investigators obtained a search warrant Monday and completed a search of the residence, seizing dozens of items, including bird of prey talons, nine marijuana plants, marijuana seeds, a quantity of unknown pills including pills in a bottle labeled for Gresko's girlfriend, and other items, according to court papers.

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Police specified in court documents that Gresko's marijuana grow operation was in his upstairs bedroom and Gresko "vented his grow operation into the next door bedroom where (his girlfriend) and her 3-year-old son slept."

In addition to the drugs and paraphernalia discovered in the residence, officials discovered and recovered a poisonous western diamondback rattlesnake that was being kept in the basement, court papers indicated.

Gresko was taken into custody Monday and transported to Montgomery County Correctional Facility where he was held for the warrant for his probation violation. According to sources, Gresko is still in custody at Montgomery County Correctional facility, and court records indicate Gresko has not yet been formally charged for the drug operation.

However, sources indicate Gresko faces charges of drug possession, possession of drug paraphernalia, a felony count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver, recklessly endangering another person, endangering the welfare of a child, and tampering with records or identification. Gresko is expected to be arraigned on the charges Feb. 16 at 9:15 a.m. before District Judge Victor M. Frederick IV.