

NEW RAPE CHARGES SOUGHT IN HIV CASE VIRUS CARRIER SUSPECT IN 5 MORE ASSAULTS

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Police Friday were seeking five more sexual assault charges against an alleged serial rapist who has tested positive for the AIDS virus.

Dwayne Peterson , 26, is expected to be arraigned today in the cases, which include an alleged September attack on a 25- year-old woman who tested HIV-positive last week, police said.

The woman told police she has had sexual contact with no one other than her attacker and that she does not use intravenous drugs -- the two most common ways the AIDS virus is transmitted.

Police have advised the other possible rape victims to be tested. None so far has reported a positive result.

Detectives suspect **Peterson** in nine or 10 reported rapes on the city's northwest side.

"It's a tragedy. . . . I think we have an obligation" to inform the public, said Cmdr. Robert Hislop of the major crimes division.

Sequoia Dubose, **Peterson** 's attorney, could not be reached Friday. WDIV-TV (Channel 4) quoted him as objecting to the public disclosure of his client's medical condition.

Police obtained court approval to test **Peterson** 's blood after the victim told them she had tested positive for the AIDS virus.

Hislop said he knows of no other Detroit case in which a rape suspect has been tested for AIDS.

A 1991 study by the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals in Washington, D.C., estimated that a woman had a 1 percent chance of becoming infected with the AIDS virus after one act of unprotected intercourse with an infected man.

Detectives said they fear there may be rape victims who did not report the attack and therefore haven't been advised to get tested. Experts say as few as 10 percent of all sexual assaults are reported to police.

Sometime last summer, police allege, **Peterson** began a burglary-rape spree in northwest Detroit, where he grew up. He is a suspect in about 100 burglaries, police said.

On Jan. 16, **Peterson** turned himself in to authorities in Alabama, where he fled after allegedly shooting and robbing a 38-year-old woman in Detroit.

He was flown back and is charged with breaking and entering, attempted murder, attempted rape and armed robbery in two cases. He is being held in lieu of \$1-million bond.

Police don't know whether **Peterson** knew he had the AIDS virus before they had him tested. He didn't mention anything about it before the test, Hislop said.

Mattie **Peterson**, 65, said her son told her in August that he was carrying the virus, but she doubted him because he often "told tales."

Police said it's unlikely **Peterson** would be charged with any crime involving intentionally transmitting the virus, because he already faces life in prison if convicted of the rape and robbery charges.

Richard Padzieski, chief of operations for the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, would not comment on the **Peterson** case but said if someone knew he was HIV-positive, that may not be enough to charge a suspect with assault with intent to commit murder.

"It's a specific intent crime," and it would be tough to prove in a scenario such as **Peterson**'s, Padzieski said.

Mattie **Peterson** said she worries for her son, whom she adopted at age nine weeks after her young niece gave birth to him in Cincinnati.

"I don't know what to do about any of this," she said. "I just pray."

She said her son, the father of a 15-month-old boy, has had trouble dealing with personal problems and as a result never held jobs long.

She said she asked police to help her control her son when he was younger, but they said they couldn't if he had committed no crime.

Now, she said, "I'm getting too old, I was just too old to be dealing with all these problems."

In 1985, **Dwayne Peterson** was sentenced to 1 1/2-10 years in prison for assault with intent to commit armed robbery. He later was paroled.

"I knew from the time he was a little boy when I would hold him, something was wrong with him," Mattie **Peterson** said Thursday.

She said her son, who has a knack for tools and cars, told her during a recent phone conversation from the county jail that he had committed rape.

"I was horrified," she said, but finds it hard to believe.

She added: "If anyone goes out there and does something like rape, and if they get HIV, they deserve it. Even my son."

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