

# THE PROSECUTOR'S PROGRESS

## AN UPDATE FROM THE VIRGINIA BEACH COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3 FALL 2018



### A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY



The 2018-2019 school year is in full swing, and unfortunately, several Virginia Beach students have already been criminally charged and/or disciplined at school for communicating threats. Students have been caught either posting or communicating threats online through social media apps or text messages, and a couple high schools have found graffiti threats written in the stalls of bathrooms. This behavior is unacceptable and will not be tolerated by the schools,

police, and Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.

*Any threat, even if it is meant to be a joke, will be taken seriously.* Criminal convictions can follow students throughout their life, affecting their ability to attend college, join the military, or get a job. Parents, it is your duty and obligation to talk to your children about the consequences of making or sharing a threat of violence. Your children have no right to privacy from you. You need to be searching through their rooms, cell phones, and other electronic devices regularly to determine who they are talking to, which apps they are using, and what they are communicating about. Talk to your children about what to do if they see or hear a threat being communicated. It is important that school staff and law enforcement authorities are contacted right away. While something may seem like a joke, let authorities investigate to ensure that no one is in danger.

Children deserve to feel safe and protected at school and in the community. Anyone who threatens that secure environment will be held accountable. Parents, please help me to put an end to this behavior in our community.

Sincerely,  
Colin Stolle

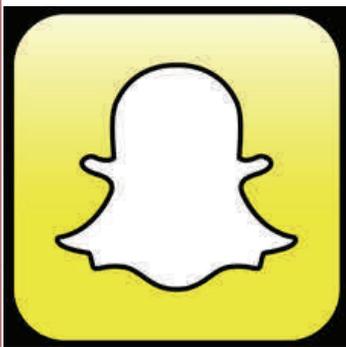
### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Message from the Commonwealth's Attorney: All School Threats will be Taken Seriously*
- *App Alerts: Fortnite and Snapchat*
- *Featured Cases of the Quarter*
- *Consumer Corner: The VA Dept. of the Treasury Unclaimed Property Program: Are you missing money?*



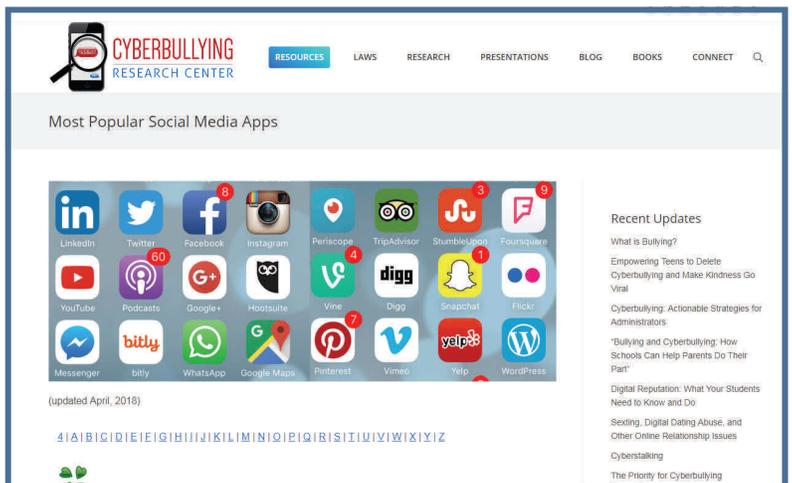
## APP ALERTS: FORTNITE AND SNAPCHAT

**Fortnite:** Fortnite is an online battle game that starts with 100 players and leaves one winner standing. While the violence is cartoon-like, the goal is to shoot and kill other players. The game features a chat function that parents should be concerned about. Players tend to use lewd, vulgar, or otherwise inappropriate language. There have been reports throughout the country of internet predators using this game to lure unsuspecting minors. If parents allow their children to play this game, screen time should be limited because it can be addictive. Parents should not allow their children to use the chat function or should be monitoring the chats for inappropriate content or contact from strangers with bad intentions.



**Snapchat:** Although Snapchat has been popular with teens for a while now, the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office is still seeing sexting and cyberbullying cases that stem from teens' inappropriate use of the app. Snapchat is a messaging app that lets users put a time limit on pictures, videos, and messages before they disappear. Teens often believe these images go away forever, but this is not true. Anything sent online never truly "disappears." Receivers can take screen shots of messages and share them publicly. Remind your children that anything posted online never goes away, and that any threat communicated through social media will be taken seriously by law enforcement.

Remember as we told you earlier this year, popular social media apps are constantly changing and being developed. A website, <https://cyberbullying.org/>, maintains a list of apps children and teens are using, along with what (if anything) should concern parents about each app. From the main site, on the menu bar across the top of the screen, parents should click the tab that says "resources" and from the drop-down menu, click on "most popular social media apps." The screen should look like this (see image above).



## FEATURED CASES OF THE QUARTER



### **Commonwealth v. Leonard Allen Morrison**

**Charges:** First Degree Felony Murder (2 counts), Robbery (2 counts), Use of Firearm (4 counts)

**Sentence:** Two Life Terms plus 28 Years

**Facts:** On June 10, 2017, Morrison and James Cole Gregory (below) planned a robbery of two men who were known to Gregory. At around 10 p.m., Morrison and Gregory entered the victims' home and robbed them of wallets, phones, and electronics. One of the victims was shot twice by Gregory and once by Morrison; the other was shot once, by Morrison. Neighbors heard gunshots and looked outside to see two men getting into a car and fleeing. Gregory was linked to the crime through text messages exchanged with one of the victims. Both men made statements to detectives implicating themselves in the double murder, although Morrison minimized his involvement in the crimes. Gregory pled guilty while Morrison's case was tried by a jury.



### **Commonwealth v. James Cole Gregory**

**Charges:** First Degree Felony Murder (2 counts), Robbery (2 counts), Use of Firearm (4 counts)

**Sentence:** Two Life Terms plus 20 Years

**Facts:** See above facts for Leonard Allen Morrison

### **Commonwealth v. Rubin Carroll Slade Jr.**

**Charges:** Rape (2 counts)

**Sentence:** Two Life Terms (to run concurrently with each other)

**Facts:** On September 26, 1984, a woman was asleep in her bedroom when Slade broke in through an unlocked window. He put his hand over her mouth and told her not to scream then sexually assaulted her. On October 12, 1984, a woman drove to a convenience store located at 17<sup>th</sup> Street and Pacific Avenue. She noticed a man standing outside the front of the store. She went into the store for a few minutes before getting back into her car and driving away. She drove about two blocks when the man she had seen outside the store jumped up out of her back seat. He directed her to stop at a dead end on 24<sup>th</sup> Street, pushed her into the backseat of the vehicle and sexually assaulted her. The victims each underwent a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE exam) where evidence, to include seminal fluid, was collected and preserved. No suspect was developed at that time in either case due to limited scientific testing available; therefore the cases went cold for many years. In 2014, the seminal fluid was tested and a DNA match was made to Rubin Carroll Slade Jr.

### **Commonwealth v. Jerode Demetrius Johnson**

**Charges:** Aggravated Involuntary Manslaughter, DUI – Victim Permanently Impaired, Hit and Run, DUI, Possession of Schedule I/II Drug, and Drive on Suspended Operator's License

**Sentence:** 47 Years

**Facts:** On May 19, 2017, at 3:19 p.m., Johnson was driving on Indian River Road when he crossed the double yellow center lines, striking a Honda CR-V driven by Kaitlyn Duffy head-on. Duffy was killed in the crash and her passenger was severely injured. Duffy's puppy was in the backseat of the car and was also killed. Prior to the crash, a witness observed Johnson driving erratically. As police arrived on the scene, Johnson ran behind a nearby house where he was detained. A police officer noted that he smelled of alcohol and showed signs of impairment. He failed field sobriety tests administered by police. At the hospital, Johnson's blood was drawn for diagnosis and treatment. Forensic testing and analysis showed that Johnson's blood alcohol level at the time of the crash was between .12 and .16, and that he had THC (marijuana), Benzoylcegonine (cocaine metabolite), and Diazepam & Nordiazepam (Valium metabolites) in his blood. At the time of the crash, Johnson's license was suspended.



For more details on these cases and other Commonwealth's Attorney's Office news, visit: [www.vbgov.com/oca](http://www.vbgov.com/oca).



Virginia Beach  
 Commonwealth's Attorney's Office  
 2425 Nimmo Pkwy,  
 Building 10 B, 2nd Floor  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23456  
 Phone: 757-385-4401  
 E-mail: OCAAdmin@vbgov.com



**TOGETHER, WE CAN  
 KEEP VIRGINIA  
 BEACH SAFE!**

The Office of the  
 Commonwealth's Attorney is  
 dedicated to serving our  
 community.

To request the Office's  
 assistance at your community  
 event, please e-mail Public  
 Information Officer  
 Macie Allen at  
[mpallen@vbgov.com](mailto:mpallen@vbgov.com).



## The Consumer Corner

### Did you know that 1 in 4 Virginians has missing money?

Virginia Department of the Treasury Unclaimed Property Program protects the property interests of citizens by promoting compliance with the unclaimed property act and returns unclaimed property to the rightful owner.

**What is unclaimed property?** Stocks, dividends, insurance proceeds, customer deposits or refunds, safe deposit box contents, payroll or commission checks, savings or checking accounts, cds, etc.

**How does your money or property get to VA Dept. of the Treasury's Unclaimed Property division?** Unclaimed property can be generated in nearly every financial transaction with any company. Property becomes unclaimed when the holder company has not had contact with the owner of the property or funds for a specified time, then the account is considered dormant. Dormant accounts by law must be turned over to the state. Unclaimed Property stays in the database until the rightful owner or heir files a claim. The website [www.vamoneysearch.org](http://www.vamoneysearch.org) enables citizens to search for their missing money and download a claim. It's free and easy.

The program returned over \$79 million dollars to citizens in fiscal year 2018! Founded in 1961, this program has returned more than \$697 million dollars.

In an effort to make sure they reach as many people as possible, the Virginia Department of the Treasury's outreach team travels the state to various community events. At these events, the team will help individuals and businesses check for unclaimed property and file a claim. If you have a community or company event you would like them to send staff to, you can email a request to [diana.shaban@trs.virginia.gov](mailto:diana.shaban@trs.virginia.gov).

Be careful, there are "fee-based" services to find unclaimed property that are trying to get your personal information or trying to charge you for information that the state makes public through their website. Make sure to go to the Department of Treasury Unclaimed Property website [www.vamoneysearch.org](http://www.vamoneysearch.org).

***This information was provided by the Virginia Department of the Treasury.  
 The CWA Office does not play a role in returning unclaimed property.***