

**DETECTIVE S. TEMPLETON**

**FEDERAL WAY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT SUMMARY**

**CASE:** 01-4380

**CRIME:** ASSAULT IN THE SECOND DEGREE

**SUMMARY:** 032901. I was assigned to this case for follow up investigation.

I requested the medical records from St. Francis hospital.

I spoke with Chornice Lewis, [REDACTED]'s cousin, and guardian on the phone. She told me [REDACTED] was at home and was doing well. The hospital released her last night and recommended she rest and put ice on her head. She told me that Rose Johnson was [REDACTED]'s great aunt. Johnson was currently caring for [REDACTED]'s 2 siblings and had taken care of [REDACTED] in the past. Lewis was somewhat rude and uncooperative. She wanted to know why I was questioning her about [REDACTED] injuries and making her feel like she (Lewis) was being investigated. I explained to her that it was my job to investigate this incident thoroughly for the safety of the child.

Lewis told me that she didn't know what the child's name was that did this to [REDACTED]. She gave me the name of [REDACTED] CPS social worker: Bula Mills (206-721-6703).

I spoke with Mills. She told me that Lewis and her mother were good caregivers to [REDACTED] and her 3 siblings. She told me that Lewis was petitioning for guardianship of [REDACTED]. She told me that the children had been through a lot of abuse, both physical and sexual, from their mother and her boyfriend. Mills indicated she had been working with the family for a long time. Mills told me that she didn't think [REDACTED]'s injuries were caused by abuse in the home.

I requested the medical records from St. Francis. (See attached).

042401. I met with Rick Searns, the manager of employee relations at the Federal Way School District in his office, at his request. He gave me information from their school investigation. (See attached reports). The FWSD's investigator, Ed Novak took statements from the school personnel involved. Mr. Searns told me that he was concerned about the discrepancies between [REDACTED] and her families' story of the incident and the school personnel's accounts.

I read through Novak's investigation and found that [REDACTED] appeared to have come into school that morning with the injuries. She told several teachers and the nurse that she had "slept-walked into a wall." The statement she gave to Officer Keller at St. Francis Hospital was completely different. She told him that another 4<sup>th</sup> grade student, [REDACTED] had assaulted her on the playground at lunchtime.

Novak's investigation revealed that [REDACTED] had been in the presence of another teacher in another part of the school when [REDACTED] said she was assaulted by her.

I asked Mr. Searns if he knew where [REDACTED] was currently attending school. He told me that they had not received any information regarding her transfer.

050301. I left a message for CPS social worker Bula Mills to call me.

050401. I left another message for Ms. Mills to call me.

092601. [REDACTED] is currently attending Hazelwood Elementary School in Auburn.

092801. Over the past few months I have left messages for Ms. Mills to return my call, to update her on the schools investigation and to try to locate [REDACTED]. Ms. Mills has not returned any of my calls to date.

I spoke with [REDACTED] in Ms. Huff's counseling office at Hazelwood Elementary School at approximately 1030 hours. Ms. Huff was present for 90 % of the interview, but was called out of the office toward the end.

The following is a summary and near verbatim documentation of the interview:

[REDACTED] was able to spell her complete name and give me her correct birth date. She told me that she had been going to Hazelwood Elementary since last year. (Ms. Huff confirmed that she started at Hazelwood in the middle of last year). She said that she hadn't gone to school anywhere else last year (she later corrected this when we talked about the incident at Wildwood Elementary School). She told me she was in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and that spelling was her favorite subject.

She told me that she lived with her aunt, Rose Johnson. She said that she also lived with her 9 year old brother, and 14 & 16 year old sisters. Then she corrected herself and said, "I made a mistake." She said that she actually lived with her cousin, Chornice Lewis and her 2 daughters who are 7 and 10 years of age. They attend Mark Twain Elementary School.

[REDACTED] gave me her correct address but didn't know her phone number. She told me she took the bus to school and that her Lewis drove her daughters to their school. She then clarified that her aunt Rose Johnson and her siblings also currently live with Lewis, "until she (Johnson) gets her own place."

[REDACTED] remembered that on her last birthday she and her family went to Wild Waves. Her favorite thing there was the roller coaster. She was able to distinguish inside from outside, on top and underneath, and before and after. She was able to demonstrate how to correct me, when I called her "Susan." She said, "You made a mistake. My name is [REDACTED]." She was able to demonstrate that if she didn't know the answer to something, she would tell me. I asked her what the name of my dog was. She said, "I don't know."

The following conversation then took place about truth and lie:

ST: What's better, truth or a lie?

Truth.

ST: What happens at your house if you get caught telling a lie?

You have to stand in the corner for time out.

ST: Can you remember the last time someone got in trouble at your house for lying.

I don't understand.

ST: How about this...If I said your hair was green, is that truth or a lie?

A lie.

ST: If I said you were 5 years old, is that truth or a lie?

A lie.

ST: If I said that you are in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and your favorite subject was spelling, is that truth or a lie?

Truth.

ST: Do you promise that everything we talk about today is the truth?

Yeh.

ST: I talk to kids about safety. Do you know a safety rule about fire?

If there's a fire, stop, drop, and roll.

ST: What about an earthquake?

Get underneath something.

ST: Do you know a safety rule about seat belts?

If you're in a car you're supposed to put a seat belt on.

ST: What about a safety rule about our bodies?

[REDACTED] I don't know.

ST: Has anyone ever talked to you about good touches or bad touches, like if your brother hit you? Does that ever happen?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] (nods affirmatively).

ST: Is that a good touch or a bad touch?

[REDACTED] A bad touch.

ST: Did you learn about that at school or at home.

[REDACTED] I don't remember.

ST: How about a handshake? Is that a good touch or a bad touch?

[REDACTED] Good touch.

ST: What if someone pushed you?

[REDACTED] A bad touch.

ST: A hug?

[REDACTED] Good touch.

ST: What if someone punched you?

[REDACTED] Bad touch.

ST: Where on your body is it not okay for someone else to touch?

[REDACTED] Your private parts.

ST: Has anyone else ever touched you in a bad way like that?

[REDACTED] No.

ST: What about hitting? Has anybody ever hit or pushed you?

[REDACTED] No.

ST: What about your brother?

[REDACTED] No, because I grab his hand before he'd hit me.

ST: What about spanking? Do you or your brothers or sisters ever get spanked if you do something really bad?

[REDACTED] No. We get put on punishment.

ST: Like what?

[REDACTED] Like we can't watch TV or play games or if we want to go outside we won't be able to.

ST: [REDACTED] do you remember going to Wildwood Elementary School in Federal Way?

[REDACTED] Yes.

ST: Why did you stop going there?

[REDACTED] Because something bad happened to my face.

ST: Tell me all about that.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] looks down and doesn't say anything for approximately 30 seconds). I don't feel comfortable.

ST: How come?

[REDACTED] (no answer).

ST: Did someone tell you not to tell.

[REDACTED] No.

ST: Why aren't you comfortable?

[REDACTED] Cause it makes me sad.

ST: Where did it happen?

[REDACTED] At school.

ST: Where at school?

[REDACTED] On the playground.

ST: Or did it happen at home?

[REDACTED] No, not at home.

ST: Who hurt your face?

[REDACTED] A girl that used to be my friend.

ST: When? Before school, after school, during recess, or something else?

[REDACTED] At recess.

ST: How do you know [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] She was in Mrs. Kester's class.

ST: What did she do?

[REDACTED] She picked up a stick and was swinging it at me and hit my forehead.

ST: Is that the truth?

[REDACTED] (She nods affirmatively).

ST: What did you tell the nurse what happened?

[REDACTED] (no answer).

ST: [REDACTED] what happened at home to cause your face to get hurt?

[REDACTED] It didn't happen at home.

ST: Your teacher said that you came in that morning with your face hurt.

[REDACTED] I get infections in my eyes and they swell up.

ST: Why did you tell your teacher and the nurse that you were sleepwalking at home and walked into a wall?

[REDACTED] (no answer).

ST: Who gave you a bad touch at home?

[REDACTED] No one.

ST: Who would you tell if something bad was happening to you at home?

[REDACTED] I don't get it.

ST: If your brother hit you, who would you tell?

[REDACTED] My aunt.

ST: If your aunt hit you, who would you tell?

[REDACTED] I don't know, she never hits me.

ST: What if your sister hit you?

[REDACTED] I would tell my aunt or Chornice.

ST: What if Chornice hit you?

[REDACTED] I don't know cause my aunt and cousin never hit me.

ST: You talked about eye infections. Did you go to the doctor for that?

[REDACTED] The doctor gave me ice to put on it when I got home.

ST: Well that was when you went to the hospital in an ambulance from school, right?

[REDACTED] Yeh.

ST: Has that ever happened again, your eye infections?

[REDACTED] I've had it happen plenty of times.

ST: Does your aunt or cousin take you to the doctor to get medicine for you when you get these eye infection?

[REDACTED] No. But they put something in them.

ST: From the store?

[REDACTED] I don't know.

ST: Have any grown ups told you to keep secrets?

[REDACTED] Uh, uh.

ST: How about your sisters?

[REDACTED] No.

ST: Did anyone tell you what to say if anyone ever talked to you about this?

[REDACTED] No.

ST: When was the last time you talked to [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The last day I went to Wildwood.

ST: Is everything we've talked about the truth?

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] nods affirmatively).

This concludes my interview with [REDACTED]

I spoke with Rose Johnson at her apartment and told her I had spoken to [REDACTED] about the incident at Wildwood elementary.

**100901.** I left a message for Ms. Mills again. I also left a message for Sue Bush, Ms. Mills supervisor to call me.

**101001.** I spoke with Cheryl Huff with Hazelwood Elementary school on the phone. She told me that [REDACTED] had been transferred to the Federal Way School District.

Ms. Bush left a message asking what I wanted.

I left Ms. Bush a message that I needed a return phone call from Ms. Mills.

**101101.** I confirmed with personnel at Mark Twain Elementary School that [REDACTED] was registered to start attending their school beginning Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

I left another message for Bula Mills.

**101201.** Ms. Mills left a message on my voice mail.

**110801.** I spoke with Ms. Mills on the phone. I told her that I was concerned about the school's investigation and the inconsistencies in my interview with [REDACTED] Ms. Mills told me there had been no further reports to CPS about this family since this one.

I told her that [REDACTED] talked about some type of eye condition that she hadn't seen a doctor for. Ms. Mills told me she would recommend an eye examination with a doctor to rule out any serious medical problems. I told her that I would fax her my report and the school's report for her information.

This case is closed. No crime can be proven at this time.