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DOCUMENTARY TRAILER “BROKEN” EXPOSES ONE FAMILY’S FIGHT TO GET JUSTICE FOR THEIR CHILDREN IN COCHISE COUNTY

Federal Agent and Family Allege Sheriff’s Office Negligent in Investigating Heinous Sex Crimes Involving Their 22 Month-Old and 3 Year-Old

A Federal Agent and his family are fighting back today by announcing the release of BROKEN, a documentary trailer, which details horrific sex crimes committed against their two young children in 2016, while the family lived in Hereford, Arizona. The family says Cochise County Sheriff Mark Dannels has done nothing to help obtain justice for their children, who were 22 months-old and 3 years-old at the time.

The suspects are Richard and Susanne McConnell, who lived in the family’s neighborhood, and who allegedly raped, sodomized and tortured the children. The family says the Cochise County Sheriff’s Office closed its case, simply because they found no video and pictures of the abuse during the execution of a search warrant at the McConnell home in April of 2016.

The children, now 6 and 8, continue to recall and describe the abuse, says their mother, Lesley Kirk. According to Kirk, the Sheriff’s Office re-opened the case in late 2019, with a promise to interview the children’s doctors and therapists, to whom the children described the abuse. But Kirk alleges investigators have failed to properly work the case and that she hasn’t even been told the name of the current lead detective, after the first detective was re-assigned to other duties.

“We never expected special treatment; just for them to thoroughly investigate the case and interview the witnesses,” says the father, who is remaining anonymous due to his position as a federal law enforcement agent. “They haven’t even interviewed our children’s nurse practitioner, whom the children disclosed horrific details to, back in 2016. You have to conduct interviews and collect evidence to solve cases. We at least know the system and who to contact, but how do regular citizens obtain justice? If a Federal law enforcement agent can’t get justice for his own kids, who can?”

Kirk says her biggest fear is that the two suspects will feel more empowered to harm children in the future, because of the mishandling of the criminal investigation.

“Anyone who would go after a Federal Agent’s children, you know it isn’t their first rodeo,” she says. “We have medical documents that detail injuries to our children. I don’t know if it’s a lack of training or an unwillingness to handle sex crimes, but Sheriff Mark Dannels is not

protecting children in Cochise County. It's inexcusable and insane that they are sweeping this under the rug. I am still holding out hope that the Sheriff's Office will seek justice for our children, but that hope is dimming."

When the sheriff's investigation went nowhere, the family hired prominent attorney A. Melvin McDonald. McDonald, a former U.S. Attorney with the District of Arizona and former Maricopa County Superior Court judge, brought additional, compelling new evidence to Cochise County Attorney Brian McIntyre, but the case still hasn't moved forward.

Kirk says the McConnells have moved away from Hereford. She is hoping the documentary trailer for BROKEN will reach others, who might have helpful information about their case. Kirk says she also wants to help protect other children and families from sex predators.

"If you or your children are a victim of this couple, report it to Cochise County Sheriff's Office at 520-432-9505," said Kirk.

For more information, visit <https://www.brokendocumentary.org>.

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